GENERAL DISCUSSION OF THE BUDGET.

Mr. James Fletcher: Sir, the Financial Secretary has made it abundantly clear—

President: The honourable member knows the time limit that has been prescribed. He may begin with the adjournment motion so that he may not be throttled in the middle.

Mr. James Fletcher: With reference to the adjournment motion I brought before this House namely the serious situation that has arisen on account of non-availability of cotton yarn on account of the mischief caused by merchants who have stocked large quantities of yarn and the consequent unemployment among hand-loom weavers, my request is that something may be done to bring relief to the people. Cotton yarn was ordinarily purchased from Mills at Ambasamudram and Madura. Large quantities used to come to Travancore and there were agents who used to get some commission on sales they effected, to local merchants. The local merchants were then distributing the yarn to the weavers. Now prices have risen on account of war conditions and the quantity which used to come to Travancore is not available and naturally the price is high. It is unfortunate that this happens especially at this part of the year when Onam is to be celebrated in Travancore and when large quantities of clothes are needed. Naturally the hand loom weavers are anxious to get as much yarn as possible. Unfortunately yarn is not available. Government have been pleased to fix a price but at that price the merchants are not prepared to sell them and they keep the stock with them knowing fully well that price will rise. They would have sold the yarn back to British India where the price is higher and that also is not allowed. They therefore refuse to sell yarn at the price fixed by Government. Clandestinely they sell it at higher prices to those persons who are prepared to buy them at higher prices.

I shall submit what could be done under such conditions. The one possibility is to take all the stock from the merchants at the prices at which they bought, giving them a reasonable commission and then re-sell them to hand loom weavers. That is intended as a temporary relief. As for the permanent relief, I suggest that Government will have to make a contract with the mill owners at Ambasamudram and Madura and get down the necessary bales of yarn to Travancore to a central depot. From there yarn could be distributed at cash price to the hand-loom weavers. So the temporary measure and the permanent measure can be immediately started so that there will be relief among the weavers.

Mr. Kochikal P. Balakrishnan Tampi (*Karunagapalli, Kartikapalli and Ambalapuzha* cum *Shertalai*): May I know the prevailing price of yarn in British India?

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Mr. James Fletcher: Rs. 8½ per bundle.

Mr. Kochikal P. Balakrishnan Tampi: And here ?

Mr. James Fletcher: The price fixed here is Rs. 6½. But there are people who are prepared to pay up to Rs. 9 — as yarn is not at present available from the local merchants. I may also submit that the hand-loom weavers are having this occupation as their main source of livelihood. They don't engage themselves in any other profession. Weaving is a home industry which is being carried out all over Travancore. Moreover, this industry is not confined to one community. All communities, Ezhavas, Nadars Mohammedans and *pattunool* Chettis, all these communities are engaged in this industry. The present state of affairs affects a large population in Travancore. Therefore, it is incumbent on the Government to take a real interest in the matter, and even if it brings about loss to them, I would pray that Government purchase the necessary amount of yarn required in the State.

President: Does the honourable member advocate the purchase of yarn or the purchase of rice bearing in mind the loss to be incurred ?

Mr. James Fletcher: Sir, rice is necessary for one's existence but for earning the rice they have to work at the yarn. Both these things are highly necessary. Though this may bring about a certain amount of loss to Government, the purchasing of yarn by Government and the reselling of it to the people may be started. If the Government is to take the initiative in the matter, merchants will come to reasonable terms to sell the yarn at moderate prices.

I may also tell another point in this connection. Government have got one advantage in this respect. Most of the yarn used in India come under the control of Messrs Harvey & Co. They would be quite willing to help the Government in giving a quota of their produce. Sir, I may also state that this arrangement could be made by the Stores Purchase Officer. He knows the quality of the stocks and the price of those things. He is the best person to be entrusted with this work. Having brought the various yarns down to Travancore they can be sold through agents which the Government could be pleased to appoint.

Now I may refer to the general budget. Sir, it has been made clear by the Financial Secretary that Travancore's financial position is perfectly sound. It is also gratifying to note that without any increased taxation our revenue is expected to go up to Rs. 267·61 lakhs, a figure that has been rising steadily ever since the Dewan-President took charge of the reins of the administration of the State. It has been a pet scheme of the Dewan-President to

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industrialise the State as far as possible. The census operations have made it clear that the population of Travancore is increasing at geometrical progression, so much so, the agricultural income alone will not be sufficient to satisfy the wants of the people. Therefore, it is highly necessary that industrialisation should be carried out as quickly as possible and every effort has been made to start industries which can flourish in the State. When we look back to the year 1116 we find that many industries in Travancore are prospering. For example, our Sugars and the Rubber industries have been very successfully doing their business. The Sugar and Rubber Companies have done very well during the last year. Similarly another industry has been started in the State viz, the Paper Mills. The mills consume large quantities of raw materials which brought very little income to the State previously. The Mills give work for a large number of unskilled and skilled labourers. Thus the State is benefited by the sale of the raw material and at the same time the people are also benefited by getting work. Similarly, I may refer to the Pallivasal Hydro-Electric Scheme. It has been a success beyond expectations. We want to develop the scheme further. And I am happy to see that the State expects to start further industries like the Alluminium Factory and the Cement Factory. All these industrial concerns will bring income to the State and work to the people and in spite of the war and in spite of the bad conditions all over the world with the wise guidance of the veteran administrator, our Dewan-president, I am sure that we shall continue to prosper on account of all these industries during the coming years.

Next I may refer to the village life in Travancore. The improvement of village life is one of the greatest needs in Travancore, The farmer and his family, and the labourers who form the backbone of the village community should receive benefit of education. Not only illiteracy should be removed from them but also they should be made to lead a better life. The spirit of working together for a common good should be created in the minds of the people. My submission is that a bold policy of rural reconstruction comprising every effort in tackling the ryots' indebtedness and checking the extreme fragmentation of holdings and in reforming the local self-Government should be launched by engaging proper agencies for the same.

I wish to make a few remarks on the medical and public health administrations bearing in mind the good work done by them. In this connecion I may suggest certain things for the consideration of Government. Sir, Government have been spending large sums of money for public health and for medical aid. It has been the

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[Mr. James Fletcher.]

policy of Government to bring medical aid to all people in the State. The General Hospital at Trivandrum is a monument for doing the best in this direction. We have got experts there for surgery and for the treatment of various diseases and they are doing excellent work. And these doctors are helped by a trained band of nurses including European nurses. Thus this General Hospital and other medical institutions are bringing credit to Travancore and the General Hospital in particular is attracting not only people from all parts of the State but also patients from outside. Of course, though they are doing very good work yet I have to suggest one or two things. The operation theatre which we are now possessing in the General Hospital is not so situated as to take the persons operated to their beds under a covered way. They are exposed to rain and sun when they are being taken from the operation theatre to their beds. The scheme of the building has not been such as to facilitate the convenience in that direction.

If we go to any other big hospital outside the State we find that the construction work is so done as to connect the operation theatre with surgical ward. I think we can take a lesson from them and follow that. Secondly I want to bring to the notice of the Department and the Government that the hospital compound is kept in an insanitary condition. It is overgrown with weeds and the back side of the compound is used as public latrines.

President: Do you refer to the General Hospital?

Mr. James Fletcher: Yes, Sir. When the Dewan made a surprise visit to the hospital on one occasion everything was kept in a very good condition. Therefore I would request you to make such surprise visits to the hospital often so that they may be compelled to keep all things in order. I make this suggestion so that the matter will be taken for consideration without delay.

I may also suggest one more point. The good work done by the various trained nurses is not appreciated. A nurse now gets only Rs. 20 or 25. I don't say that it is too small a pay. What I want to say is that because most of them have to be in the hospital during nights and days they should be given quarters within the hospital premises. Sir, you know fairly well that in Madras these nurses have got first class quarters. Ordinarily these nurses come from different parts of the State. If they are provided with accommodation within the hospital premises it would be of great help to them. Therefore the nurses' quarters are highly necessary and they should be constructed as early as possible.

I wish to say one more word about the Medical Department. The Medical Department is complementary to the Health Department. The Health Department is for preventing diseases and the

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Medical Department is intended for curing them. More or less the same work has to be done by each of these Departments only in different ways. My suggestion is that these two Departments should be Brought under the control of one Departmental Head. This will reduce the expenditure under travelling allowance, office expenses etc. as the officer who goes on tour can inspect both the medical and the health institutions of a particular locality at one tour. Otherwise, as it exists, duplication of work is caused and unnecessary travelling allowances are given. I suggest this, Sir, for your consideration. With these words I resume my seat.

Mr. T. W. U. Park (*Travancore Planters*): Sir, I rise to congratulate the Financial Secretary on the very able way in which he has presented the budget but in so doing, I permit myself to offer a few observations. The operation of extracting money is not one which is performed under anaesthesia (except perhaps in totalitarian countries) and no Financial Secretary can expect to perform the task without some murmur now and again from his patients. Representing a very large number of his patients I have to record our response to the pain he inflicts. I welcome the announcement that no increase in income tax is contemplated. I notice that income tax last year— the current year just ending—has produced a sum of about 1¼ lakhs more than was originally budgeted for. I particularly am glad to note that this increase is due, according to the Financial Secretary, to the fact that more companies and traders are being assessed and I welcome this as an indication that the Government and the Department concerned are concerned with the necessity of seeing that no person who is to pay tax is exempted from it. In connection with the levy of income-tax, I should like to mention that this is entirely the prerogative of the State and there should be no encroachment on their preserve by any other body.

Turning to Customs—I am sorry I am not following the order in the new classification—I appreciate that it is highly necessary that the undisputed fall in customs receipts has to be made up in some way or other, and I note that the rubber producers have to make up at least 4 lakhs. That of course will put Travancore rubber at some disadvantage as compared with the produce in British India. The war absorption of rubber has been at an artificially high level and when normal conditions are restored there must be a reduction, a considerable reduction, in absorption and a considerable fall in prices. I mention this because I would like to have the hope that this new export duty will be considered as a temporary one and may be removed as soon as practicable after the war is over. I notice that this export duty is called a "cess". Ordinarily, I understand by the term 'cess' that it is collected for

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[Mr. T. W. U. Park.]

the specific benefit of the contributor. This is certainly not so in this case. So perhaps some explanation may be forthcoming. Turning to the other produce tea, in which I am also interested, I notice that we are expected to contribute 1¾ lakhs to the exchequer. Tea producers, with rubber producers will not give place to any one in their readiness to contribute fairly and justly to the common cause and if at the end of the year, the contribution to the war fund can be increased by a corresponding 1¾ lakhs, producers will be well content. At the same time an enhancement of 33 1/3 per cent. is a little high and possibly when the war is over, it may be reduced again. Government, like individuals, are loath to part with easy sources of revenue and sometimes find it convenient to forget the reason for the original imposition of a tax when such reasons no longer exist. I hope that fact will not be overlooked.

President: The honourable member will realise on what condition income-tax has been imposed in British India and when.

Mr. T. W. U. Park: At the same time the taxes on tea and rubber are discriminatory, and therefore when the industries concerned come to less prosperous times, I think it will be natural to expect that Government should be ready and prepared to remove or reduce such duties when they become a hardship and are then no longer justifiable.

After all, tea and rubber plantations are wasting assets and it seems only fair that provision should be made for (a) wastage of capital and (b) equalisation of dividends. I should like to remind the Financial Secretary that there has been no increase in the price of tea on account of the war. The prices fixed by the Minister of Food in the United Kingdom are based on the average prices of 1936, 37 and 38, while costs of production are rising. In the case of rubber the present position is artificial and cannot last long. So while I accept the new taxation as perhaps a matter of necessity at the present time, the absence of any assurance for the future gives me ground for some apprehension. I trust such apprehensions may be allayed. As far as the expenditure side of the budget is concerned, I do not at this stage propose to go into any detail. I note that Government is resisting any temptation to cut down salaries, but is determined to make economies in expenditure wherever possible in most other directions. Government servants do not get fantastic salaries in this State and they deserve to be assured of due recompense, commensurate with their responsibilities.

At the same time economy can be carried too far in some directions. I myself receive many communications relating to the business of this house in covers made out of old used forms, which ought to have been sent to the paper mills for repulping.

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I notice that under Miscellaneous Departments, provision has been made for the continuance of Census work. With regard to the adequate remuneration to Government servants, I should like to make one point clear. All the statistics which are now being analysed and tabulated could not have come into existence but for the valuable work done by the supervisors and enumerators. I regret to say that many of these men particularly on estates have not yet had any monetary recognition of their services, representations to secure it for them having failed.

President: Is he assured about that?

Mr. T. W. U. Park: I can cite cases.

President: I hope the honourable member will bring any such case to the notice of Government because our policy has not been that.

Mr. T. W. U. Park: I represented the matter to the Census Commissioner.

In conclusion, I should like to congratulate the Financial Secretary on the budget memorandum which explains so lucidly, historically and arithmetically the financial position of the State that even a lay man like myself has some hope of understanding it.

Mr. M. K. Ananthasiva Aiyar: Sir, while congratulating the Financial Secretary on the lucid budget.....

President: Just one word, Mr. Ananthasiva Aiyar. In a day or two we are getting a Rationing Officer who is coming to discuss the question of petrol and fuel-oil rationing. I am sure that the honourable member has sufficient experience and can sufficiently manage not to say anything to make it more difficult.

Mr. M. K. Ananthasiva Aiyar: I will just state that matter. While congratulating the Financial Secretary on the lucid way in which he has presented the budget and for the valuable memorandum which he has placed before the House, I cannot but say that he has been optimistic both in his calculation regarding the revenue and the expenditure. In effect, the prosperity of the State depends more or less upon its financial position. So for as Travancore is concerned and more especially the Central Travancore is concerned, all the coastal regions have been almost devastated and thrown into a desert as it were by reason of the pest on the cocoanut trees. Almost all the cocoanut trees on the coastal regions have been destroyed and nothing could be expected out of them for the coming two or three years. That is my sincere opinion. So, how to expect revenue from such a place is the question. We cannot expect to have much revenue in the shape of customs, so long as the people of the State are in fact in a bad predicament. So for as the coastal regions—Sherthalai, Ambalapuzha, Karunagapalli and Kartikapalli taluks are concerned where the position has been very

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[Mr. M. K. Ananthasiva Aiyar.]

serious, the only course which I may have to suggest to Government is that some sort of cottage industry be introduced into every household in those places, so that poor people may not die of starvation. I do not think that, in the budget, provision has been made for any such contingencies. On a previous occasion, we had the good fortune to hear you sir, on the possibility of the paper-making industry. I remember you said then that, if people would go in for paper industry, Government will be prepared to take all the paper that will be manufactured in the State. Well I ran for some information about the point to the Director of Industries. He has not been able to give me any information about the paper industry. I searched for some person who knows anything about paper industry and I have come across with one gentleman from Karamanai, who poses to know something about it, and I have asked him to come to our village and educate our people after proving his fitness for the undertaking. Well, I would suggest that some officers of the department should be deputed to study the art of paper-making and to introduce it into every village and every household so that the poor people may be able to earn at least two chuckrams a day to purchase tapioca and live on it

With regard to the adjournment motion.....

President: Order, order. The honourable member has raised a very important question. Now that he has raised it, I may say for his information that there are one or two persons here who know how to make paper as a cottage industry. Those people are wandering about the streets asking for help. Government have told them that if they can get people to under-write them Rs. 500, Government will be prepared to contribute Rs. 2,000. In this matter Government are prepared to spend up to Rs. 1 lakh to encourage paper industry, provided there is some kind of response from the people. In Hyderabad there is the paper industry; and I do not see why that industry cannot be started here. If honourable members will only form themselves into a kind of private corporation, Government will be glad to help them.

Mr. M. K. Ananthasiva Aiyar: Sir, I am glad to say that the Pulinkunnu Village Union has arranged for the formation of a Co-operative Society for this purpose. We have also invited some person whose name was suggested to us to give the instruction for making paper.

President: In the meantime the men who are now waiting may go away to other places. Already one of them has gone to Ceylon and other people probably may go somewhere else.

Mr. M. K. Ananthasiva Aiyar: I have invited one Mr. Tampi of Karamanai to come to Pulinkunnu and to educate the masses there.

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With regard to the question of fuel-oil that is required for the fields, the Kuttanad area requires one thousand tons of oil every year. With the introduction of electric power some of the engines which were run on charcoal were sold away and we have to go in for more of these crude oil engines so long as the electric line could not be extended further than what has been done now, on account of the international situation. Further, we do not expect to get more of the motors now on account of the present war situation. So unless and until a guarantee is given to the ryots whom both the Government officers and the leading men of the place are advising to cultivate the lands, and unless and until some assurance is given to them that crude oil will be available, the ryots are really afraid that the fuel oil required by them may not be available for them. Arrangements will have to be made in Karkatakam or in Chingom for contracts for the supply of this oil by Government. So I bring to the pointed attention of Government that some arrangements should be made with the companies dealing in crude oil to see that there is no scarcity of such oil for the ryots. It is for that purpose that I gave notice of an adjournment motion.

In regard to the extension of electric power to other areas of Kuttanad also, I am really happy to say that the extension of the line to the Kayal area is a boon to the agriculturists of the Kayal lands. We expect that the expenses we had to meet in previous years will be considerably reduced, by the introduction of the new pumps that are being invented by the University Research Officers. This line may be extended to some other places also provided we could get small motors. I understand that motors can be purchased from British India. I have made some arrangements with the leading ryots to purchase small motors also and I have promised them that I will make the necessary enquiries about the motors which may be made available. In case the ryots do come and say that they have motors in their hands, I request that the line should be extended to such of the places where electric power can be easily taken. With these words I resume my seat.

Mr. T. K. Kittan : സർ, ഞാൻ സമർപ്പിക്കുന്ന അടിയന്തിര പ്രമേയം ഇതാണ്; അതായത് സാക്ഷരതാ, ജനസംഖ്യ, രാഷ്ട്രീയപ്രബുദ്ധത മുതലായവയിൽ ഇതര സംസ്ഥാനങ്ങളുടെ മുന്നണിയിൽ നിൽക്കുന്ന തിരുവിതാംകൂറിൽ യുദ്ധകാലസാഹചര്യം നിമിത്തം അടിക്കടിലാസ് കിട്ടാതെ പതുപ്രവർത്തകന്മാർ വിഷമിക്കുന്നതിനു ബഹുമാനപ്പെട്ട ഗവർമ്മെൻറ് എന്തെങ്കിലും ഒരു പരിഹാരം ഉണ്ടാക്കി അവരെ സഹായിക്കണമെന്നാണ്.

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[Mr. T. K. Kittan.]

കടലാസെന്നല്ല വിദേശത്തുനിന്നും കിട്ടേണ്ട സാധനങ്ങൾ പലതും ശരിയായിട്ട് ഇപ്പോൾ ഇവിടെ കിട്ടുന്നില്ലെന്നുള്ള സംഗതി ബഹുമാനപ്പെട്ട മെംബർമാർക്ക് എല്ലാവർക്കും അറിയാം. ഇവിടെ പ്രശസ്തമായ രീതിയിൽ നടത്തിക്കൊണ്ടിരുന്ന പത്രങ്ങൾ കടലാസ്സ് കിട്ടാത്തതുനിമിത്തം ആദ്യം പേജു കുറച്ചു തുടങ്ങി. ഇപ്പോൾ പത്രം നിന്നുപോകുമോ എന്നുകൂടി സംശയിക്കേണ്ടിയിരിക്കുന്നു. ഇതൊരു പ്രധാനപ്പെട്ട സംഗതിയാണെന്നു കരുതി ബഹുമാനപ്പെട്ട ഗവർമ്മെന്റിൽനിന്നും വേണ്ട സഹായങ്ങൾ ചെയ്തുകൊടുക്കണമെന്നു പറയുന്നതിനാണ് ഞാൻ ഈ അടിയന്തിരപ്രമേയം അവതരിപ്പിച്ചത്.

ഇനി ഫ ഫ ഫ ഒ-ലെ ബഡ്ജറിനെപ്പറ്റി പറയാം. ഫ ഫ ഫ ഒ-ൽ മുതലെടുപ്പു ൨ കോടി ൫൦ ലക്ഷവും ചെലവു ൨ കോടി ൯൫ ലക്ഷവും മിച്ചം ൫ ൽ ലക്ഷം രൂപായുമായിരിക്കുമെന്നാണ് പ്രതീക്ഷിക്കുന്നത്. ഫ ഫ ഫന്ത-ലെ സങ്കല്പംപോലെ സംഗതികൾ അവസാനിക്കുന്ന മട്ടു കാണുന്നില്ല. യുദ്ധവും ക്ഷാമവും സാമ്പത്തികാധഃപതനവും മുന്നേപ്പോലെതന്നെ തുടർന്നു നിൽക്കുന്നു. അതുകൊണ്ട് ഫ ഫ ഫ ഒ-ലെ വരവിനെക്കുറിച്ചു വലിയ പ്രതീക്ഷക്കൊന്നിനും ഇപ്പോൾ ആവശ്യമില്ല.

ചെലവിനത്തിൽ പട്ടാളപരിഷ്കാരത്തിനു ൨ ലക്ഷം രൂപായും യുദ്ധസാമഗ്രികൾക്കായുണ്ടായേക്കാവുന്ന അടിയന്തിരചെലവുകൾക്കു ൫ ലക്ഷം രൂപായും നീക്കിവച്ചിരിക്കുന്നതു കാലസ്ഥിതിക്കും ചുറ്റുപാടുകൾക്കും അനുസരിച്ചുള്ള മുൻകരുതൽ തന്നെയാണ്.

നമ്മുടെ രാജ്യത്തിന്റെ ആകപ്പാടെയുള്ള സ്ഥിതിവിവരങ്ങൾ (Statistics) ഇൻഡ്യയിലുള്ള മറ്റു രാജ്യങ്ങളുമായി താരതമ്യവിവേചനം ചെയ്യുന്നതിൽ ഭ്രവിസ്തീർണ്ണതയിൽ മാത്രം ഹൈദ്രാബാദും മൈസൂരും മുന്നിട്ടു നിൽക്കുന്നതു ഒഴിച്ചാൽ മുതലെടുപ്പ്, ജനസംഖ്യ, സാക്ഷരത, സ്ത്രീവിദ്യാഭ്യാസം, സ്ത്രീസ്വാതന്ത്ര്യം, സ്ത്രീകളുടെ സർക്കാർ സേവനവിഭാഗത്തിൽ, നവീനമായ നിയമസഭാസംഘടന, പരിഷ്കൃത രാജ്യഭരണവ്യവസ്ഥ, കാലോചിതമായ മറ്റു പരിഷ്കാരങ്ങൾ ഇവയിലെല്ലാം നാം ഏറ്റവും മുന്നണിയിൽ നിൽക്കുന്നു എന്നു കാണുന്നതു അഭിമാനകരം തന്നെ. "ട്രാവൻകൂർ ഇൻഫർമേഷൻ" എന്ന ഗവർമ്മെന്റു മാസികയുടെ പ്രസിദ്ധീകരണവൈശിഷ്ട്യവും സ്തുത്യർഹമായിരിക്കുന്നു.

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സംഗതികൾ ഇങ്ങനെയൊക്കെയാണെങ്കിലും നമ്മുടെ നിത്യാനുഭവത്തിലിരിക്കുന്ന മഹാനഗ്നവും അസഹനീയവുമായ ഒരു "പരാധീനത"യെക്കുറിച്ചു ആലോചിക്കുമ്പോൾ മേൽ പ്രസ്താവിച്ച ഉപരിസ്ഥാനത്തുള്ള നമ്മുടെ നിലപാടുകളും പ്രതാപങ്ങളുമെല്ലാം അസ്ഥാപ്രായമായിപ്പോകുന്നു. ജീവിതത്തിന്റെ പ്രാഥമികാവശ്യങ്ങളിൽ ഏറ്റവും പ്രാധാന്യമുള്ള ആഹാരസാധനങ്ങൾക്കും ലജ്ജ മറയ്ക്കുവാനുള്ള വസ്ത്രങ്ങൾക്കുംവേണ്ടി നാം അന്യരാജ്യക്കാരെ ആശ്രയിച്ചു ജീവിക്കുന്നതിനെക്കുറിച്ചാണു "പരാധീനത" എന്നു ഞാൻ പ്രസ്താവിച്ചതു്. ൧൯൨൫-ൽ നമ്മുടെ കോടി രൂപയുടെ നെല്ലും അരിയും ൯൫ മുക്കാൽ ലക്ഷം രൂപയുടെ ജവുളിത്തരങ്ങളുമാണു് ഈ രാജ്യത്തു് ഇറക്കുമതി ചെയ്തിട്ടുള്ളതു്.

ഇന്നു ജീവിച്ചിരിക്കുന്ന ൩൦ ലക്ഷത്തിനും പുറമെ പ്രതിവർഷം വർദ്ധിച്ചു വരുന്ന (പെറ്റു പെരുകിവരുന്ന) ൧൫ ലക്ഷം വീതമുള്ള ജനസംഖ്യയും, ആഹാരസാധനങ്ങളുടെ ദുർലഭ്യവും കൂട്ടിച്ചേർത്താലോചിക്കുമ്പോൾ നമ്മുടെ തൽക്കാല നിലയും, ഭാവിയും, ഏറ്റവും ഭയാനകവും പരിതാപകരവും ആയി തോന്നിപ്പോകുന്നു. ഈ ദുഃസ്ഥിതിയിൽ നിന്നു് രക്ഷപ്പെടാനുള്ള മാർഗ്ഗം ആരായുകയാണു് നമ്മുടെ പ്രധാന കർത്തവ്യം. കഴിഞ്ഞ അഞ്ചാറു മാസങ്ങൾക്കിടയിൽ ബഹുമാനപ്പെട്ട തിരുവിതാംകൂർ ചീഫ് സെക്രട്ടറി അവർകൾ നടത്തിയ പബ്ലിക്ക് പ്രസംഗങ്ങളിൽ നെല്ലു്, അരി, വസ്ത്രം മുതലായ സാധനങ്ങളുടെ ഇറക്കുമതിക്കണക്കുകൾ വിവരിച്ചു പ്രസ്താവിക്കുകയും നമ്മുടെ ഭയനീയമായ അന്യാശ്രയ നിലപാടുകളുടെ നഗ്നമായ രൂപത്തെ വെളിപ്പെടുത്തുകയും, ഈ ധർമ്മസങ്കടത്തിൽനിന്നു രക്ഷപെടാനുള്ള മാർഗ്ഗനിർദ്ദേശങ്ങളിൽ "സ്വയം പര്യാപ്തത" (Self sufficiency) എന്ന പ്രായോഗികപദ്ധതിക്കു പ്രാമാണ്യം കൊടുത്തു ജനസഞ്ചയത്തെ മനസ്സിലാക്കുകയും ചെയ്തിട്ടുണ്ടു്. സ്വയംപര്യാപ്തതയ്ക്കു അദ്ദേഹം പറഞ്ഞ മാർഗ്ഗങ്ങൾ:—

(൧) കൃഷി പരിഷ്കരിച്ചു വർദ്ധിപ്പിക്കുക.

(൨) കുടിൽ വ്യവസായങ്ങൾ ഏർപ്പെടുത്തുക.

(൩) രാജ്യത്തു് ഒരിഞ്ചു ഭൂമിപോലും കൃഷിചെയ്യാതെ വിടാതെയിരിക്കാൻ ശ്രമിക്കുക.

(൪) ഗുണമുള്ള വളങ്ങൾ ചേർത്തു ശാസ്ത്രീയമായി കൃഷി നടത്തുക.

(൫) പഴനിലമിട്ടിരുന്ന സമ്പ്രദായം ഉപേക്ഷിക്കുക.

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[Mr. T. K. Kittan.]

(ന) ഭക്ഷണത്തിനു കൊള്ളാവുന്ന പുതിയ പദാർത്ഥങ്ങൾ കൃഷി ചെയ്യുക.

(ഒ) നമ്മുടെ ഉൽപ്പന്നങ്ങൾക്കു പുതിയ വിപണികൾ കണ്ടുപിടിക്കുക.

(വ) അനാവശ്യച്ചെലവുകളും ആഡംബരങ്ങളും പാടെ ഉപേക്ഷിക്കുക.

Mr. Kottur Kunjukrishna Pillai : On a point of order. We are asked to condone the manuscript eloquence of the honourable member.

President : Order, order. I understand what the honourable member says. I take it that the honourable member is reading from very full notes prepared by him.

Mr. T. K. Kittan : (ൻ) ഭക്ഷണത്തിനു.....

Mr. Puthupally S. Krishna Pillai : The honourable member is entitled to refer to his notes; but is he entitled to read out the notes ?

President : In the case of people who read dexterously it is very difficult to see when the notes end and when eloquence commences.

Mr. T. K. Kittan : (ൻ) ഭക്ഷണത്തിനു നെല്ലരിച്ചോറു മാത്രം എന്നുള്ള ആശയും പാരമ്പര്യവും മർക്കടമുഷ്ടിയും കുറെശ്ശ ഉപേക്ഷിച്ചിട്ടു ചോറിനോടു് കൂട്ടൊക്കെ ഇൗട്ടു നിൽക്കുന്ന മറ്റു പദാർത്ഥങ്ങൾ തിന്നു ശീലിക്കുക.

President : I suppose the honourable member is fully aware of the objection sought to be taken that as far as possible speeches in this honourable House as in many other Houses must be extempore though recourse may be had to notes.

Mr. T. K. Kittan : ഞാൻ കണക്കുകളാണു് വായിക്കുന്നതു്. നോക്കി വായിച്ചില്ലെങ്കിൽ കണക്കു തെറ്റിപ്പോകും. അങ്ങിനെ തെറ്റിപ്പോയാൽ ഞാൻ ഉത്തരവാദിയല്ല.

President : The honourable member has only one remedy, to lift up his head a little more often from his notes.

Mr. T. K. Kittan : ഇതു ചീഫ് സെക്രട്ടറിയുടെ പ്രസംഗമാണു്.

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(൧൦) സർവോപരി ഉള്ളതുകൊണ്ടുമാത്രം തൃപ്തിപ്പെടുകയും അന്യാശ്രയബുദ്ധി അത്യുഷം ഉപേക്ഷിക്കുകയും ചെയ്യുക.

(൧൧) ഉദ്യോഗസംബന്ധമായ നിർബന്ധവ്യവസ്ഥകൾക്കും, വല്ലപ്പോഴുമുണ്ടാകുന്ന ചില പ്രത്യേകാവശ്യങ്ങൾക്കുമൊഴിച്ചു ഒരിക്കലും വിദേശവസ്ത്രങ്ങൾ ഉപയോഗിക്കാതിരിക്കുക. എന്നിവയാണ്.

തിരുവിതാംകൂറിലെ ഒരു ഉൽകൃഷ്ട പൗരൻ, വളരെ നിലം പുരയിടങ്ങളുടെയും വസ്തുവകകളുടെയും ഉടമസ്ഥൻ. ഉന്നതവിദ്യാഭ്യാസംകൊണ്ടും ഉയർന്ന ഉദ്യോഗംകൊണ്ടും പ്രശംസനീയൻ, നമ്മുടെ പൊന്നുതമ്പുരാൻ തിരുമനസ്സിലെ തൃക്കൈകളിൽനിന്നു സ്ഥാനമാനങ്ങൾ ലഭിച്ചു ഒരു മഹാഭാഗ്യവാൻ ഉദ്യോഗം ഒഴിഞ്ഞാലും ഇവിടെത്തന്നെ താമസിക്കേണ്ട ഒരു ആയൽക്കാരൻ, എന്നീ നിലകളിൽ നമ്മുടെയെല്ലാം സ്നേഹബഹുമാനങ്ങൾക്കു സർവഥാ പാത്രീഭൂതനായ അദ്ദേഹം തലകാഞ്ഞും ഉള്ളുനീറിയും ആലോചിച്ചു പറഞ്ഞ ഗുണദോഷങ്ങൾ അത്യന്തം ശ്രദ്ധേയവും പരീക്ഷിച്ചു നോക്കേണ്ടവയും ആണ്.

യുദ്ധംമൂലം വിദേശ ജവുളികൾ ലഭിക്കുന്നതിനു പ്രയാസം നേരിട്ടപ്പോൾ, സിലോണിൽ താമസിക്കുന്ന യൂറോപ്യന്മാർ പൌരസ്ത്യ വസ്ത്രധാരണരീതി സ്വീകരിച്ചുകൊള്ളണമെന്നു അടിയിലത്തെ ബഹുമാനപ്പെട്ട ഗവർണർ സായിപ്പ വർകൾ കല്പന പുറപ്പെടുവിക്കുകയും, മുട്ടോളം എത്തുന്ന കാക്കി കാൽച്ചട്ടയും ഒരു വെള്ള ഷർട്ടും ധരിച്ചു അദ്ദേഹം മാതൃക കാണിച്ചു കൊടുക്കുകയും ചെയ്തതു രണ്ടു മൂന്നു മാസങ്ങൾക്കു മുൻപു നടന്ന ഒരു മഹാ പരിഷ്കാരമാണ്. "ആവശ്യം സൃഷ്ടിയുടെ മാതാവു" എന്നുള്ള ആപ്തവാക്യം ഇവിടെ അനവദ്യമാകുന്നു. നമ്മുടെ അനുകരണഭ്രമത്തിനും പാശ്ചാത്യപരിഷ്കാരഭ്രമത്തിനും ഈ തിരുത്തി നിശ്ചയിക്കേണ്ട കാലം അതിക്രമിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നു.

അഭ്യസ്തവിദ്യർ, ഫാക്ടറി ജോലിക്കാർ, സാധാരണ കൂലിവേലക്കാർ തുടങ്ങി ലക്ഷക്കണക്കിനു ജനങ്ങൾ തൊഴിലില്ലാതെ ദാരിദ്ര്യത്തിൽ കിടന്നു കഷ്ടപ്പെട്ടുഴലുന്നു. കുഗ്രാമങ്ങളിലെ സ്ഥിതി അതിദയനീയമാണ്. പട്ടിണി കിടന്നു ജനങ്ങൾ മരിക്കുന്നതായും കേൾക്കുന്നു. യുദ്ധത്തിനു മുൻപു ആറാകാൽ, ആറു ശ്രീപാ വിലയുണ്ടായിരുന്ന അരിക്കു ഇപ്പോൾ പതിനൊന്നര, പതിനൊന്നേ മുക്കാൽ ശ്രീപാവരെ വിലയായിരിക്കുന്നു. മരിച്ചീനിക്കും (കപ്പയ്ക്കും) വില കുതിച്ചതാണ്.

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[Mr. T. K. Kittan.]

ഇവിടത്തെ വിദ്യാഭ്യാസച്ചെലവു് ഇടത്തരക്കാക്കും താണപടിക്കാക്കും നിർവഹിക്കാൻ കഴിയാത്തവണ്ണം ഭർവഹമായി വർദ്ധിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നു. നാലാം ഫാറത്തിലും ആറാം ഫാറത്തിലും ഒരെ നിരക്കു ഫീസ് ഏർപ്പെടുത്തിയിരിക്കുന്നതു് ഏതു തത്വത്തെ അടിസ്ഥാനപ്പെടുത്തിയാണെന്നു മനസ്സിലാകുന്നില്ല. പാഠ്യപുസ്തകങ്ങളും അഞ്ചാറു കൊല്ലത്തേക്കെങ്കിലും മാറാത്തരീതിയിൽ വ്യവസ്ഥചെയ്യണം. നോട്ടുബുക്കുകളുടെ കാര്യത്തിൽ ഈയിടെ ചെയ്തതന്ന സൗജന്യത്തിന് ബഹുമാനപ്പെട്ട ഗവർമ്മെൻറിനെ അഭിനന്ദിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു. വിദ്യാഭ്യാസവിഷയത്തിൽ ജനങ്ങൾക്കുണ്ടായിക്കൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്ന ഭർവഹമായ ചെലവിനു ഗണ്യമായ കുറവു വരുത്താത്ത പക്ഷം നമ്മുടെ വിദ്യാഭ്യാസപുരോഗമനത്തിനു ഭയങ്കരമായ അധഃപതനമുണ്ടായേക്കാമെന്നു ശങ്കിക്കേണ്ടിയിരിക്കുന്നു.

ഗവർമ്മെൻറിന്റെ താണശമ്പളക്കാരുടെ ജീവിതം വളരെ ശോചനീയമായിരിക്കുന്നു. വെറും അർദ്ധപട്ടിണിക്കാരായി അധോഗതിക്കാരായാണവർ കഴിച്ചുകൂട്ടുന്നതു്. ഉപയോഗമില്ലാത്ത ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറുകളും നിറുത്തലാക്കിയും, ചെറിയ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറുകളും കൂട്ടിച്ചേർത്തും, അനാവശ്യ ഉദ്യോഗങ്ങളും റദ്ദു ചെയ്തും അതിരുകവിഞ്ഞ ശമ്പളങ്ങളും വെട്ടിക്കുറച്ചും മിച്ചമുണ്ടാക്കി കീഴ്ജീവനക്കാക്കു് ശമ്പളം കൂട്ടിക്കൊടുത്തു സംരക്ഷിക്കേണ്ടതു് അത്യാവശ്യമായിരിക്കുന്നു.

കൃഷി, കച്ചവടം കൈത്തൊഴിൽ മുതലായവയുടെ അഭിവൃദ്ധിക്കു ഗതാഗതസൌകര്യങ്ങളും വർദ്ധിപ്പിക്കേണ്ടതു് ഒഴിച്ചുകൂടാത്ത ആവശ്യമാണു്. കൂലിവേലക്കാരുടെ തൊഴിലില്ലായ്മയെ പരിഹരിക്കുന്നതിനു് രാജ്യത്തിന്റെ നാനാഭാഗങ്ങളിലും അത്യാവശ്യമുള്ള സ്ഥലങ്ങളിൽ മരാമത്തു വേലകളും തുടങ്ങുന്നതു് പ്രയോജനകരവും ഈ കാലസ്ഥിതിക്കു ഗവർമ്മെൻറിനു ലാഭകരവും ആയിരിക്കും.

തെങ്ങിൽനിന്നു കൂടുതൽ ആദായം ഉണ്ടാക്കുന്നതിനു ശ്രമിക്കണം. കള്ള് (മധു) പുളിച്ചു പോകാതെയും സ്വതേയുള്ള സ്വാദും രുചിയും പോഷകാംശവും നഷ്ടപ്പെടാതെയും ക്രമപ്പെടുത്താമോ (പാകപ്പെടുത്താമൊ) എന്നു തിരുവിതാംകൂർ ഗവേഷണ വകുപ്പുകാരെക്കൊണ്ടോ മറ്റു വിദഗ്ദ്ധന്മാരെക്കൊണ്ടോ പരീക്ഷിച്ചുനോക്കി ശരിപ്പെടുമെങ്കിൽ കള്ള് (മധു) വീപ്പകളിലടച്ചു യൂറോപ്പിലും അമേരിക്കയിലും ചീനത്തും ജപ്പാനിലും അയച്ചു നമുക്കു നല്ല ലാഭമുണ്ടാക്കാം. വിദേശങ്ങളിൽനിന്നു് ഈ രാജ്യത്തു ഇറക്കുമതി ചെയ്യുന്ന ബീയർ സൈഡർ മുതലായ ലഹരിപാനീയങ്ങളെക്കാൾ മെച്ചമായിരിക്കും നമ്മുടെ കള്ള് അഥവാ മധു.

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President . The honourable member may perhaps be aware that we produce our own beer now.

Mr. T. K. Kittan : തെങ്ങിൻ ചാരായത്തിൽനിന്ന് സ്പിരിറ്റ് സംഭരിച്ചു യന്ത്രങ്ങളം നടത്തുന്നതിനു ഉപയോഗിക്കുക, തെങ്ങിൽനിന്നു മധുരക്കള്ള് ചെത്തി എടുക്കുന്നതിനു ലൈസൻസ് സിസ്റ്റം ഏർപ്പെടുത്തുക, മധുരക്കള്ളിൽനിന്നു പാനി, ചക്കര, കൽക്കണ്ടം, പഞ്ചസാര, ചോക്ലേറ്റ് മുതലായവ ഉണ്ടാക്കി കച്ചവടവും കൈത്തൊഴിലും വർദ്ധിപ്പിക്കുക, വില കൂടിയ ശീതളപാനീയങ്ങൾക്കും കാപ്പി, ചായ, കൊക്കൊ, ഓവൽടിൻ മുതലായവയ്ക്കും പകരം കരിക്കും ഇളനീരും അതിന്റെ മജ്ജയും ഉപയോഗിക്കുക, ഇങ്ങനെ ചെയ്യുന്നതു നാളികേരത്തിന്റെ വില വർദ്ധിക്കുന്നതിനുംകൂടി കാരണമാകുന്നതാണ്. അതായത് മട്ടിക്കള്ളിനും ചക്കരക്കള്ളിനുംവേണ്ടി കോടിക്കണക്കിനു തെങ്ങിൻ ചൊട്ടകൾ ചെത്തിത്തീക്കയും ഇളനീരും കരിക്കും വെട്ടിയിറക്കുകയും ചെയ്യുമ്പോൾ നാളികേരത്തിന്റെ വർദ്ധനവു കുറയുകയും ഉള്ളതിനു നല്ല വില കിട്ടുകയും ചെയ്യുന്നതാണല്ലോ.

ഇപ്പോൾ വില ഇടിഞ്ഞു കിടക്കുന്ന നമ്മുടെ നാളികേരം, കൊപ്ര, വെളിച്ചെണ്ണ, ചകരി, കയർസാധനങ്ങൾ, കശുമുളക്, ചുക്ക, ഏലം, പുൽതൈലം, മത്സ്യം, മത്സ്യക്കൊഴുപ്പ്, ദന്തപ്പണികൾ, മരപ്പണികൾ, തടി മുതലായസാധനങ്ങൾക്കു ശരിയായ മാർക്കറ്റുകൾ കണ്ടുപിടിക്കുന്നതിനു വിശ്വസ്തന്മാരും ശേഷിമാന്മാരുമായ രണ്ടോ മൂന്നോ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരെയും സ്റ്റാഫിനേയും ഒരു അഖിലേന്ത്യാ പര്യടനത്തിനു യാത്രയാക്കുന്നതു നന്നായിരിക്കും എന്നു തോന്നുന്നു. ഇൻഡ്യയിലുള്ള അനുഭവജ്ഞാനം നാട്ടുരാജ്യങ്ങളിലും പതിനൊന്നു ബ്രിട്ടീഷ് പ്രവിശ്യകളിലും സഞ്ചരിച്ചു പ്രചരണജോലികൾ ചെയ്യുന്നതിനു ഒന്നോ ഒന്നരയൊ വർഷവും ചെലവിനു ഒരു ലക്ഷം രൂപയും അനുവദിച്ചാൽപോലും അതൊരു നഷ്ടമാകുന്നതല്ല.

നമ്മുടെ വനം കൊച്ചീ രാജ്യത്തിന്റെ ഇരട്ടി വലിപ്പമുള്ളതാണെങ്കിലും മുതലെടുപ്പു തീരെ മോശമാണ്.

ഇവിടത്തെ പെൻഷൻ സംഖ്യ ഇപ്പോൾ 40 ലക്ഷത്തോളമായിരിക്കുന്നു. ഇതെവിടെ ചെന്നവസാനിക്കുമെന്നും നിശ്ചയമില്ല. ഇനി മേൽ സർക്കാർ ജീവനക്കാർ ഉദ്യോഗമൊഴിയുമ്പോൾ പാരിതോഷികം (സഹായധനം) കൊടുത്തു ഇടപാടു തീർക്കുന്ന സമ്പ്രദായം ഏർപ്പെടുത്താമൊ എന്നു ആലോചിച്ചു നോക്കേണ്ടതാണ്.

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[Mr. T. K. Kittan.]

ഉദ്യോഗനിയമനക്കാര്യത്തിലുള്ള പരാതി ഇനിയും തീർന്നിട്ടില്ല. ഇതു വളരെ ശോചനീയം തന്നെ. ഈ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറ് കറെക്കുടി കാര്യക്ഷമമായി ഭരിക്കുന്നതിനു നിഷ്കർഷിക്കണമെന്നപേക്ഷിക്കുന്നു.

ആയുർവേദ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിനും അവശസമുദായസംരക്ഷണത്തിനും അനുവദിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള ഗ്രാൻറുകൾ തീരെ കുറഞ്ഞുപോയെന്നാണ് എൻറെ അഭിപ്രായം.

ഉപയോഗപ്രദങ്ങളായ കണ്ടുപിടിത്തങ്ങൾക്കു പാരിതോഷികം കൊടുക്കുന്നതിനു ഒരു സംഖ്യ അനുവദിച്ചു പ്രസിദ്ധം ചെയ്താൽ ആരെങ്കിലും എന്തെങ്കിലും നവീന സൂത്രങ്ങളോ സംപ്രദായങ്ങളോ കണ്ടുപിടിച്ചെന്നു വരാം. പ്രയോജനപ്രദമെന്നു ബോദ്ധ്യപ്പെട്ടാൽ മാത്രമെ പ്രതിഫലം കൊടുക്കേണ്ടതായുള്ളൂ.

തിരുവനന്തപുരത്തു പുതുതായി പണിയിപ്പിച്ച പബ്ലിക്ക് ആഫീസുകൾ പട്ടണത്തിനു വലിയ അലങ്കാരമായിത്തന്നെ ശോഭിക്കുന്നു.

തിരുവനന്തപുരം—കന്യാകുമാരി കാൺക്രീറു് റോഡ് ഇൻഡ്യയിലേക്കും ഏറ്റവും നീളം കൂടിയ കാൺക്രീറു് റോഡാണ്. അതു നമ്മുടെ രാജ്യത്തിൻറെ അന്തസ്സിനു വളരെ മാറ്റു കൂടിയിട്ടുണ്ട്. എം. സി. റോഡുംകൂടി കാൺക്രീറു ചെയ്യുന്ന സംഗതി ഗവർമെൻറിനെ അനുസ്മരിപ്പിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു.

തിരുവനന്തപുരം പട്ടണത്തിൽ തടിച്ചുകൂടിയിരിക്കുന്ന അലസന്മാരും അക്രമികളും കള്ളന്മാരും ഉൾപ്പെടുന്ന ഭിക്ഷക്കാരുടെയും രോഗികളുടേയും കാര്യത്തിൽ എന്തെങ്കിലും കർശനമായ നടപടികളും ഉടൻ ആരംഭിക്കേണ്ടതാണ്. ഈ രാജ്യത്തിൻറെ നാനാഭാഗങ്ങളിൽനിന്നു മാത്രമല്ല അയൽ രാജ്യങ്ങളിൽനിന്നുകൂടി വന്നിട്ടുള്ളവരാണ് ഇവർ. ഇവരെ തിരുവനന്തപുരം പട്ടണവാസികളുടെ മാത്രം ചുമതലയിൽ വിട്ടുകൊടുക്കാതെ, അല്ലെങ്കിൽ ചുമതലപ്പെടുത്താതെ, രാജ്യത്തിൻറെ പൊതുക്കാര്യമായി പരിഗണിച്ച് പൊതുമുതലിൽനിന്നു ചെലവുചെയ്ത് ഇവരെ സംരക്ഷിക്കേണ്ടതാണ്. ഭിക്ഷക്കാരിൽ ഉൾപ്പെട്ട സാംക്രമികരോഗബാധിതരെ അലഞ്ഞു തിരിയുവാൻ അനുവദിച്ചാൽ പൊതുജനാരോഗ്യത്തിനു ഗണ്യമായ ഹാനിതട്ടുമെന്നുള്ളതിനു തർക്കമില്ല. ഈ ധർമ്മരാജ്യത്തിലെ രാജധാനിയിൽ ഇന്നത്തെ രീതിയിൽ ഭിക്ഷക്കാരും ദീനക്കാരും അലഞ്ഞുതിരിഞ്ഞു കഷ്ടപ്പെടുന്നതും പട്ടിണികിടക്കുന്നതും കഷ്ടാൽ കഷ്ടതരമാണ്.

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ഈ കാര്യത്തിൽ ബഹുമാനപ്പെട്ട ഗവർമെൻറിൻെറയും നിയമസഭാ മെംബർമാരുടെയും രാജ്യത്തെ സകല പൗരന്മാരുടെയും അടിയന്തിരമായ ശ്രദ്ധയെയും അനേഷണത്തെയും ഞാൻ വിനയപൂർവം ക്ഷണിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു.

സർ, ഫ ഫ ഫ മുതൽ ഫ ഫ ഫ വരെ നാലുവർഷങ്ങൾക്കിടയിൽ നാലു ഫിനാൻഷ്യൽ സെക്രട്ടറിമാരാണു ഇവിടത്തെ ധനത്തിൻെറയും കണക്കിൻെറയും ഉത്തരവാദിത്വം വഹിച്ചത്. രാജ്യത്തിൻെറ ജീവനാഡിയായ ഖജനാവിൻെറയും കണക്കിൻെറയും മേധാവിയെ അടിക്കടിമാറ്റിക്കൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്ന നയം ഒരു ഉത്തരവാദിത്വഭരണവ്യവസ്ഥയാണെന്നു സമ്മതിക്കാൻ വിഷമംതോന്നുന്നു. ഈ തുറയുടെ മേലുദ്യോഗസ്ഥൻ ഈ രാജ്യത്തെ ഭാഷയും (മലയാളം) ഇവിടത്തെ കണക്കുകളുടേയും നാണയങ്ങളുടേയും രീതികളൊ, സ്വഭാവങ്ങളൊ, കുഴപ്പങ്ങളൊ പ്രത്യക്ഷമായും പരോക്ഷമായും അറിയാവുന്ന ആളായും ഇരിക്കേണ്ടതു് ഒഴിച്ചുകൂടാത്ത ആവശ്യമല്ലാ അത്യാവശ്യംതന്നെയാണു്.

നവവത്സരം നമുക്കു് സകല നന്മകളും പ്രദാനംചെയ്യട്ടെ എന്നു സർശക്തനായ ദൈവത്തോടു പ്രാർത്ഥിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു.

Mr. Thomas Chandy Mukkadan : സർ, ബഡ്ജറിനെപ്പറ്റി പൊതുവിമർശനത്തിനുവേണ്ടി എനിക്കുള്ള അഭിപ്രായങ്ങൾ പ്രസ്താവിക്കുന്നതിനുമുൻപു് ഈ സഭയുടെ പരിചിന്തനത്തിനുവേണ്ടി ഗവണ്മെൻറിൻെറ ദൃഷ്ടിയിൽ ഞാൻ വിഷയീഭവിപ്പിച്ച അടിയന്തിരപ്രമേയത്തെ ആധാരമാക്കി ചില സംഗതികൾ പ്രസ്താവിക്കുവാനാണു് ഉദ്ദേശിക്കുന്നതു്.

കുട്ടനാട്ടിലെ സാധുക്കളിൽ ഭൂരിപക്ഷവും കർഷകതൊഴിലാളികളാണു്. അവർ ആണ്ടുവട്ടം മുഴുവനും കർഷകനെ ആശ്രയിച്ചും അവൻ കൊടുക്കുന്ന നിസ്സാരകൂലിപറ്റിയും കഴിഞ്ഞുകൂടുന്നു. അടുത്തകാലങ്ങളിൽ ഉണ്ടായിട്ടുള്ള കൃഷി നഷ്ടവും യുദ്ധനിമിത്തം നേരിട്ടിരിക്കുന്ന പ്രതികൂല പരിതഃസ്ഥിതികളുംമൂലം കണ്ണുനീരും പട്ടിണിയുമായി ശുഷ്കിച്ച കരങ്ങളോടുകൂടി കഴിഞ്ഞുകൂടുന്ന കർഷകജനതക്കു്, മുൻകൊല്ലങ്ങളിൽ തങ്ങളാൽ പോറ്റപ്പെട്ടപോന്ന തൊഴിലാളിവിഭാഗത്തെ ഇപ്പോൾ താങ്ങുന്നതിനു ശക്തിയില്ലാതെയാണിരിക്കുന്നതു്. അതിനാൽ തൊഴിലാളികൾ അവരുടെ നിത്യവൃത്തിക്കു വേണ്ടവ സമ്പാദിക്കുന്നതിനു് മറ്റു തൊഴിലുകൾകൂടിചെയ്യാൻ നിർബന്ധിതരായിത്തീർന്നിരിക്കുന്നു.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[Mr. Thomas Chandy Mukkadan.]

ഇടവം, മിഥുനം, കർക്കടകം ഈ മാസങ്ങളിൽ കുട്ടനാട്ടിൽ താരതമ്യേന കൂടുതൽ ദാരിദ്ര്യം ഉള്ള അവസരവും കാർഷികമായ യാതൊരു ജോലിയുമില്ലാത്ത സന്ദർഭവും ആകുന്നു. തന്മൂലം ഈ സന്ദർഭത്തിൽ മത്സ്യത്തൊഴിൽകൊണ്ടാണ് സാധുക്കൾ കഴിഞ്ഞുകൂടുന്നതു. ഇതരപ്രദേശങ്ങളെ അപേക്ഷിച്ചു കുട്ടനാട്ടിൽ മത്സ്യത്തൊഴിലാളികൾ എന്നൊരിനക്കാർ ഇല്ലതന്നെ. തീരപ്രദേശങ്ങളിലും കായലോരങ്ങളിലും ആണ് മത്സ്യതൊഴിലാളികളിൽ അധികഭാഗവും ഉള്ളതു്. കുട്ടനാട്ടിൽ മത്സ്യത്തൊഴിലാളികൾ എന്ന നിലയിൽ പ്രവൃത്തിചെയ്യുന്ന ആളുകൾ, വീയപുരം, മാന്നാർ, തുടങ്ങിയ പ്രദേശങ്ങളിൽനിന്നും വരുന്നവരാണ്. കുട്ടനാട്ടിലെ പ്രത്യേക സാഹചര്യങ്ങൾമൂലം ആഹാരസാധത്തിനുവേണ്ടി എല്ലാവരുംതന്നെ മത്സ്യം പിടിക്കാറുണ്ട്. മത്സ്യം പിടിക്കുന്നവർ ലൈസൻസ് എടുക്കണമെന്ന നിയമമുള്ളതു് കുട്ടനാട്ടിലെ ജനങ്ങൾക്കു മൊത്തത്തിലും തൊഴിലാളികൾക്കു പ്രത്യേകമായും സങ്കടകാരണമായിട്ടാണിരിക്കുന്നതു്. ചില സ്ഥാനങ്ങളിൽ മത്സ്യം പിടിക്കുന്നതിനുള്ള അവകാശം ഗവണ്മെൻറിൽനിന്നും കൺട്രാക്ടറു കൊടുത്തിട്ടുണ്ട്. കൺട്രാക്ടറു എടുത്തിരിക്കുന്നവർ തൊഴിലാളികളെ പലവിധത്തിൽ ഉപദ്രവിച്ചുപോരുന്നു. മുൻകൊല്ലങ്ങളിലും ഇക്കൊല്ലത്തിൽ കൺട്രാക്ടറു സിസ്റ്റം ഉണ്ടായിരുന്നു. എന്നാൽ ഞാൻ മുൻപു പ്രസ്താവിച്ച തരത്തിലുള്ള പ്രത്യേക പരിതഃസ്ഥിതികൾമൂലം കൺട്രാക്ടർമാർക്കു നിയമാനുസരണം പ്രവർത്തിക്കുന്നതുമൂലം വലിയ ഫലമില്ലെന്നു കാണുകയാൽ അവർ ആ കാര്യത്തിൽനിന്നും പിൻവാങ്ങുകയും ഗവണ്മെൻറു അവരുടെ ഉടമ്പടിയെ റദ്ദു ചെയ്യുകയും ഉണ്ടായിട്ടുണ്ട്.

ഫിഷറി ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിന്റെ ഇന്നത്തെ ഭരണാധികാരി തൽസ്ഥാനത്തു വന്നതോടുകൂടി ഒരു പുതിയ കൺട്രാക്ടറു സിസ്റ്റം ഏർപ്പെടുത്തി. മൂന്നു കൊല്ലത്തേക്കു ആയിരത്തിൽശിഷ്ടം രൂപയ്ക്കാണ് കുട്ടനാട്ടുൾപ്പെട്ട പുറമ്പോക്കുസ്ഥലങ്ങൾ കൺട്രാക്ടർമാർക്കു വിട്ടുകൊടുത്തിട്ടുള്ളതു്. സ്വകാര്യ (പ്രൈവറ്റ്) ജലാശയങ്ങളായ പുഞ്ചപ്പാടങ്ങൾ അവരുടെ കൺട്രാക്ടറിൽ ഉൾപ്പെടുന്നില്ല. എന്നാൽ ഉടമ്പടി വ്യവസ്ഥകളെ അവഗണിച്ചും, നിയമത്തെ ധിക്കരിച്ചുകൊണ്ട് അവർ ഉൾപ്രദേശങ്ങളിലേക്കു കടന്നു കർഷകരുടെ സ്വകാര്യസ്ഥലങ്ങളിൽ മത്സ്യം പിടിക്കുന്ന തൊഴിലാളികളെ ലൈസൻസ് എടുക്കുന്നതിനു നിർബന്ധിക്കുകയും അവരുടെ പ്രവർത്തനങ്ങളെ വിഘ്നപ്പെടുത്തുകയും ചെയ്യുന്നു. മാത്രമല്ല, മത്സ്യം പിടിക്കുന്നതിനുള്ള ഉപകരണങ്ങളായ വല, ഒറാൽ,

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ചൂണ്ടൽ മുതലായവ ബലമായി എടുത്തുകൊണ്ടുപോവുകയും ചെയ്യുന്നു. അടുത്തകാലങ്ങളിൽത്തന്നെ മുന്നൂറിൽ അധികം വലകൾ കൺട്രാക്ടർമാർ അധീനപ്പെടുത്തിയിട്ടുള്ളതായി അറിയാം. കേവലം മുഴുപ്പട്ടിണിക്കാരായ പുലയസ്ത്രീകൾ അവരുടെ ആഹാരത്തിനുവേണ്ടി പുഞ്ചപ്പാടങ്ങളിൽ മത്സ്യം പിടിക്കുന്നതിനു ഉപയോഗിക്കുന്ന തല്ലൽകൂടകൾപോലും പിടിച്ചു പറിച്ചുകൊണ്ടുപോകുന്നുണ്ട്. ഇതിലേക്കു അക്രമികളുടേയും ചിലപ്പോൾ പോലീസുകാരുടേയും സഹായം കൺട്രാക്ടർമാർ ഉപയോഗിച്ചുവരുന്നുണ്ട്. ഇന്നത്തെ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറു അദ്ധ്യക്ഷനാകട്ടെ, ഗവേഷണപരമായി വളരെ പരിജ്ഞാനമുള്ള ആളാണെങ്കിലും കുട്ടനാട്ടിനേയോ അവിടത്തെ മത്സ്യത്തൊഴിൽ സംപ്രദായത്തേയോ സംബന്ധിച്ചു യാതൊരറിവുമുള്ള ആളല്ല.

President : Did the honourable member bring this fact to the notice of Government.

Mr. Thomas Chandy Mukkadan : കഴിഞ്ഞ കൊല്ലത്തിൽ ഇതിനെസംബന്ധിച്ച് ആയിരത്തോളം ആളുകൾ ഒപ്പിട്ട ഒരു മെമ്മോറിയൽ ഗവണ്മെൻറിലേക്കു സമർപ്പിക്കയും മറു പ്രകാരത്തിൽ വിവരം ധരിപ്പിക്കയും ചെയ്തിട്ടുണ്ട്. അടുത്തകാലത്തു് മുൻപിലത്തേക്കാൾ പതിന്മടങ്ങു ശക്തിയായി കൺട്രാക്ടർമാർ ചെയ്യുന്ന അഴിമതികളെക്കുറിച്ചാണ് എനിക്കു പറയുവാനുള്ളതു്. വെള്ളപ്പൊക്കം കഴിഞ്ഞിരിക്കുന്ന ഈ സന്ദർഭത്തിൽ 'കൊഞ്ച്' എന്ന മത്സ്യം പുഞ്ചപ്പാടങ്ങളിൽ ധാരാളം ഉണ്ടു്. ഇതു പിടിക്കുന്നതിനു ശ്രമിക്കുന്ന സാധുക്കളുടെ തൊഴിൽ വിഘ്നപ്പെടുത്തുകയും, ഉപകരണങ്ങൾ കരസ്ഥമാക്കുന്നതുമൂലമുണ്ടാകുന്ന വൈഷമ്യങ്ങൾക്കു വേണ്ട പരിഹാരം ഉണ്ടാക്കണമെന്നാണ് എന്റെ അഭ്യർത്ഥന.

പൊതുവിമർശനരൂപേണ ഇതുസംബന്ധമായി എനിക്കു പറയുവാനുള്ളതു ഫിഷറി ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറു ഗവേഷണവകുപ്പുകാർക്കു കൊടുക്കേണ്ടതല്ലെന്നും, ഗവണ്മെൻറിന്റെ പ്രത്യേക നിയന്ത്രണത്തിൽ ഒരു എക്സിക്യൂട്ടിവ് ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥൻ നടത്തേണ്ടതാണെന്നുമാണ്. മത്സ്യം പിടിക്കുകയും ക്രയവിക്രയം ചെയ്യുകയും ചെയ്യുന്നവരെ ഈ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥനാണ് ഭരിക്കേണ്ടതു്. മൊത്തമായി കിടക്കുന്ന ഒരു ജലാശയത്തിൽ ചില ഭാഗങ്ങൾ കൺട്രാക്ടർമാർക്കും, ഏതാനും സ്ഥലം ഫിഷറി ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറു അധികാരികൾക്കും വിധേയമായിരിക്കുന്നതു് തൊഴിലാളികൾക്കു ക്ലേശകാരണമാണ്. വേമ്പനാട്ടുകായലിന്റെ ഒരു ഭാഗം വൈക്കം ഫിഷറി ഇൻ

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[Mr. Thomas Chandy Mukkadan.]

സ്പെക്ടരുടെ കീഴിലും മറെറാരു ഭാഗം കോട്ടയം ഡിവിഷൻ കൺടോ ക്ററരുടേയും മൂന്നാമത്തെ ഒരു ഭാഗം വീയപുരം കൺടോക്ററരുടേയും അ ധീനതയിലാണ്. ഈ മൂന്നു ഭാഗങ്ങളിലും മത്സ്യം പിടിക്കുന്നതിനു പ്ര ത്യേകം പ്രത്യേകം ലൈസൻസുകൾ വേണ്ടിയിരിക്കുന്നു. മൂന്നുരൂപാ വി ലയുള്ള ഒരു വലയ്ക്കു വീയപുരം കൺടോക്ററരിൽനിന്നു രണ്ടു രൂപകൊ ടുത്തു് ആ ലൈസൻസു് എടുത്താൽ വേമ്പനാട്ടു കായലിൽ കോട്ടയം ഡിവിഷന്റെയും, വൈക്കം അതിർത്തികളിലും മത്സ്യം പിടിക്കുന്നതിനു സ്വാതന്ത്ര്യം ഇല്ല. അതിനാൽ ഈ രീതി മാററി ഒരു ഉപകരണത്തിനു ഒരു ലൈസൻസു മതിയാകുമെന്നും, ഒരു ജലാശയം ഒരു ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്റെ കീഴിൽ ആയിരിക്കണമെന്നും വ്യവസ്ഥ ചെയ്യണമെന്നപേക്ഷിക്കുന്നു.

അടുത്തതായി എനിക്കു പറയുവാനുള്ളതു് ഗവണ്മെൻറിന്റെ പൊതുഭരണനയത്തെപ്പററിയാണു്. പട്ടണങ്ങളേയും മററും പോഷി പ്പിക്കുന്നതുപോലെ ഗ്രാമപ്രദേശങ്ങളേയും അവിടെയുള്ള ജനങ്ങളേയും പോഷിപ്പിക്കുന്നതിനു് സഹായിക്കുന്നില്ല. ബഡ്ജററിന്റെ ഓരോ വശ ങ്ങളും മറിച്ചുനോക്കിയാൽ വൻപട്ടണങ്ങളെ മോടിപിടിപ്പിക്കുന്നതിനായി നീക്കിവച്ചിട്ടുള്ള തുകയുടെ ഒരു ശതമാനമെങ്കിലും ഗ്രാമപ്രദേശങ്ങളിലെ സാമാന്യ ജനങ്ങളുടെ ഉയർച്ചയ്ക്കു ആവശ്യമുള്ള കാര്യങ്ങൾക്കുവേണ്ടി ഉപയോഗിക്കുന്നില്ലെന്നുള്ള പരമാർത്ഥം ബോദ്ധ്യപ്പെട്ടും. ഈ സംഗതി ഗവണ്മെൻറിന്റെ ദൃഷ്ടിയിൽ കൊണ്ടുവരികയും ഇക്കാര്യത്തിൽ കൂടുതൽ ശ്രദ്ധ പതിപ്പിക്കണമെന്നു അഭ്യർത്ഥിക്കയും ചെയ്തുകൊള്ളുന്നു. കുട്ട നാട്ടിലെ കർഷകതൊഴിലാളികളുടെ വിഷമതകൾ ഞാൻ മൂണ്ടിക്കാ ണിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടു്. ക്രുലിപ്പറ എന്നു പറയുന്ന അളവു പറയാണു് അവിടെ നടപ്പിൽ ഇരിക്കുന്നതു്. ഈ അളവു സാധാരണ അളവിൽ കുറവാണു്. ഈ അളവിനാണു് തൊഴിലാളികൾക്കു ക്രുലി കിട്ടുന്നതു്. ഇതിന്റെ പരിഹാരത്തിനുവേണ്ടി ഈ സഭമുഖാന്തിരവും, കർഷകതൊഴിലാളി സംഘം മുഖേനയും, കുട്ടനാട്ടിലെ ജനപ്രതിനിധി എന്ന നിലയിൽ ഞാൻ തന്നേയും പല പ്രാവശ്യവും നിവേദനം ചെയ്തിട്ടുണ്ടു്. ക്രൂനിവാരണ് ആക്ററു സംബന്ധിച്ചുള്ള വാദപ്രതിവാദവേളയിലും ഈ സംഗതി ഞാൻ ഗവണ്മെൻറിന്റെ ദൃഷ്ടിയിൽ കൊണ്ടുവന്നിട്ടുണ്ടു്. ഇപ്പോൾ അളവു സംബന്ധിച്ചു ഏകീകരണമുണ്ടാക്കാൻ ഗവണ്മെൻറു തീരുമാനിച്ചു എന്നു റിയുന്നതിൽ കുട്ടനാട്ടിലെ തൊഴിലാളിവർഗ്ഗത്തിന്റെ നാമധേയത്തിൽ

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അവരുടെ ഒരു പ്രതിനിധിയെന്ന നിലയിൽ ഞാൻ ഗവണ്മെൻറിനെ ഹാർദ്ദമായി അഭിനന്ദിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു. ഗവണ്മെൻറ വ്യവസായ പ്രവർത്തകന്മാർക്കു ചെയ്തുകൊടുത്ത ആനുകൂല്യങ്ങൾപോലെ കൃഷിക്കാർക്കു ചെയ്തുകൊടുത്തിട്ടില്ലെന്ന് മൊത്തത്തിൽ പ്രസ്താവിക്കേണ്ടിയിരിക്കുന്നു. ഉള്ള കൃഷിതന്നെ കൂടുതൽ കായ്ക്ഷമമായും ആദായകരമായും നടത്തുന്നതിനു ഇനിയും ഗവണ്മെൻറു ചെയ്യേണ്ടിയിരിക്കുന്നു. പ്രധാനമായ ഒരു സംഗതി അവർക്കു നിയമസംബന്ധമായ രക്ഷയില്ലെന്നുള്ളതാണ്. കർഷകരുടെ തർക്കങ്ങളെ സംബന്ധിച്ചു ഒരു ഫർജി ബോധിപ്പിച്ചാൽ, അതിന് താലൂക്കു അധികൃതർ ഒരുവിധത്തിലും, അതിനുമേലുള്ളവർ മറെറാരുവിധത്തിലും, ഹൈക്കോടതിയിൽ ചെല്ലുമ്പോൾ വേറൊരുവിധത്തിലുമാണ് തീരുമാനിക്കപ്പെടുന്നത്. ഇപ്രകാരം അപൂർണ്ണമായിട്ടുള്ള ഒരു നിയമമെ ഇവരെ സംബന്ധിച്ചുള്ളു. ഇതിനാൽ ഇപ്പോഴത്തെ സ്ഥിതിക്കനുസരണമായ ഭേദഗതികൾകൂടി നിയമത്തിൽ വരുത്തുവാൻ ഗവണ്മെൻറിൻെറ ദയാദൃഷ്ടി ഉണ്ടാകണമെന്നപേക്ഷിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു. ജനസാമാന്യത്തിൻെറ താല്പര്യങ്ങളെ സംരക്ഷിക്കുന്നതിനുവേണ്ടി ഗവണ്മെൻറു കഴിയുന്നത്ര ശ്രദ്ധിക്കുന്നു എന്നു പല പ്രാവശ്യവും അദ്ധ്യക്ഷമുഖത്തുനിന്ന് കേൾക്കാനിടയായിട്ടുണ്ട്. എന്നാലും കീഴുദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരിൽനിന്നും യാതൊരാനുകൂല്യങ്ങളും ലഭിക്കുന്നില്ലെന്നതന്നെ പറയേണ്ടിയിരിക്കുന്നു. അവർ ജാതി നോക്കിയും മതം നോക്കിയും മറും, പ്രവർത്തിക്കുന്നതിനാൽ ഗവണ്മെൻറിൻെറ നയത്തെ ക്ലാനപ്പെടുത്തുകയാണു ചെയ്യുന്നതു്. അതിനാൽ എനിക്കു പ്രസ്താവിക്കുവാനുള്ളതു്, അധികാരമുള്ള ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരായ ദിവാൻജിയും ചീഫ്സെക്രട്ടറിയും, പട്ടിണിക്കാരുടെ സങ്കേതങ്ങളിൽചെന്ന് അവരുടെ ദുരവസ്ഥയെ കണ്ടറിഞ്ഞു വേണ്ട നിവാരണമാർഗ്ഗങ്ങൾ നിർദ്ദേശിക്കുവാൻ മുതിരുന്നതുപോലെതന്നെ, റവന്യൂ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാർ പ്രത്യേകിച്ചും, പോലീസു അധികാരികൾ കൂടെതലായും രാജ്യത്തിൻെറ നാനാഭാഗങ്ങളിലും ചുറ്റിനടന്ന് ജനങ്ങളുടെ സങ്കടങ്ങൾ കണ്ടറിഞ്ഞു വേണ്ട പരിഹാരങ്ങൾ ഉണ്ടാക്കുന്നതിനു ഏർപ്പാടു ചെയ്യേണ്ടതാണെന്നു ഞാൻ ഗവണ്മെൻറിനെ ഉൽബോധിപ്പിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു. റവന്യൂ കമ്മിഷണരായിരുന്ന മി: രാമചന്ദ്രറാവുവും, സെൻസസ്സ് കമ്മീഷണർ മി: തമ്പിയും രാജ്യത്തിൻെറ പല ഭാഗങ്ങളിലും ചുറ്റിസഞ്ചരിച്ചതിൻെറ ഫലമായി ഗ്രാമങ്ങളുടെ സ്ഥിതിഗതിയെ സംബന്ധിച്ച് അവക്കു പൂർണ്ണമായി ഗ്രഹിക്കുവാൻ സാധിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ട്. കീഴുദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാർ ജാതീയമനസ്ഥിതിയോടുകൂടി പ്രവർത്തിക്കുന്നുണ്ടോ എന്നും, മറെറന്തെ

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[Mr. Thomas Chandy Mukkadan.]

ങ്കിലും കുഴപ്പങ്ങളുണ്ടാക്കുന്നതെന്നോ എന്നും, സൂക്ഷിക്കുകയും തെറ്റുകാരെന്നു ബോദ്ധ്യപ്പെടുന്നവരെ മാതൃകായോഗ്യമായി ശിക്ഷിക്കുകയും ചെയ്യേണ്ടതാണ്. ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാർ എപ്പോഴും സമുദായചിന്തകൾക്കും മതചിന്തകൾക്കും അതീതരായി നീതി നടത്തണമെന്നുള്ള തത്വത്തെ ഉറപ്പിച്ച്, വേണ്ടതു പ്രവർത്തിക്കത്തക്കവണ്ണം ഏർപ്പാടു ചെയ്യേണ്ടതു് എത്രയും ആവശ്യമാണെന്നുൽബോധിപ്പിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു.

Mr. Kochikal P. Balakrishnan Tampi: Sir, I also wish to congratulate the Financial Secretary on his budget. I mentioned the Financial Secretary to begin with because I do not want to disguise from this House the feeling that he holds the key position. That place was occupied by a non-Travancorean before. From the psychological aspect of the matter once a non-Travancorean comes to hold a place we never quarrel so that we may have a good company and good cheer following the psychology of the Railway compartment. We have always felt that in the present position of our State the finances should be handled by an officer, gazetted or non-gazetted, not from outside who may sometimes come here in order to better his prospects or a pensioner who would like to come here under certain favourable circumstances. I congratulate the Financial Secretary for the very able manner in which he has handled a really bad situation. The house is not unaware of the great restraint, the unexpected troubles that have faced the Financial Secretary in preparing a budget during war time such as this. I am particularly glad that this Government is now not discarding the systematic study about the incidence of taxation and taxable margin. From that point of view I am glad to note, notwithstanding Mr. Park's interruptions, that I can congratulate the Financial Secretary on having taxed rubber, tea, cardamom and palmyra products. I am afraid that he has not gone to the extent he could have in this matter compared with what has taken place in Ceylon, Malaya and other places. I am glad to say that the present Financial Secretary has been very modest in fixing the rate of taxation. I also join with Mr. Ananthasiva Aiyar in saying that adequate attention has not been paid to ameliorate the condition of the people of the coastal area. I for one always think that exaggeration should not be a virtue, at any rate, in this house of elders. Therefore I may be apt to understate when I speak about the condition of the people. I am often afraid I have to

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transgress the self-imposed rule. The conditions in coastal areas need immediate attention. In that connection I wish to express the gratitude of this house to the Government for the announcement made this morning that a separate reserve fund is to be created, and that liberally to start with. My only prayer is that the expending of it may also he started early enough, I mean with the beginning of next year. The relief works that have been started in Shertallai and Alleppey have not been completed and I understand that they are not being attended to. There is a surplus left behind. I feel that the Government should make that surplus also available for continuing the execution of those incomplete works which were scheduled last year.

I wish also to refer to the grievances eloquently spoken about by my friend Mr. Mukkadan. People who are engaged in the fishing industries are very much bullied by contractors without any corresponding benefit to the State exchequer. I wish to associate myself with all the remarks he made about the present administration of the department. Last year also I dealt on this aspect of the matter but I am guarded on the floor of this house not to speak anything about the officer which may lead to various interpretations not very complimentary to the speaker. Anyway there is no denying the fact that the Government did not do a wise thing in selecting a University Professor coming from a not very important fishing centre like Agra, to be in charge of the fishing and marine departments. The infant university particularly has not gained any experience in the management of a department of the State. Therefore the fishing branch of the university has heen bungling. It is making mistakes and I think it will make greater mistakes in future. When the Government is thinking about the importance of the fish wealth of the land and finding out better marketing facilities and manufacturing facilities for fish products, it is very unfortunate that that department is administered by an academic body under the supervision of a person, whatever his other merits may he, not at all familiar with practical fishing. To know the anatomy, physiology of some fish in the Atlantic or even the Indian ocean is not to know the Fisheries Regulation or the Departmental Rules with regard to the fishing practice of this land. I do not want to say more because experience has shown that my observations may provoke Government and they may perhaps say that the present Fisheries De artmental Head is the ablest officer to be found.

President: I do not think there is ny unapprehended danger in saying that.

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Mr. Kochickal P. Balakrishnan Tampi: Mr. Fletcher was observing that the Public Health Department and the Medical Department should be amalgamated into one. Sir, that kind of proposition was not possible even many decades ago when the activities of the Public Health Department were few. There was a time when a medical man was attending to this kind of work and no differentiation was made between the public health work and the medical work. For the information of my honourable friend I should say that the public health matters demand more attention, more technical knowledge and a more systematic study than the practice of medicine. If these two departments are to be amalgamated it will be the worse for both. Experience in other countries also has taught that it is better to have two different departments.

Mr. James Fletcher: I am for bringing the two departments under one head so that one person may direct both the activities.

Mr. Kochikal P. Balakrishnan Tampi: I do not wish to enter into an etymological controversy regarding the meaning of amalgamation with my friend, because I do not find the subtle difference between amalgamation and bringing the two departments into one.

Lastly I wish to refer to the announcement made by Government regarding constitutional reforms. I do not wish to say that any definite reforms were announced. When I heard the announcement I was really enthusiastic. To be more frank when I read the announcement a second time I found that it was made by a person, a lawyer infinitely greater than myself because that thing which I characterise as announcement did not really contain any announcement.

President: All of us are subjected to disillusionment.

Mr. Kochikal P. Balakrishnan Tampi: In a way I am confident that it marks an indication as to which way the Governmental mind is working and to that extent certainly we welcome the announcement. Unfortunately I am one of those unconverted men who believes that democracy of the Westminster type is as much applicable and workable in India as in Britain or America. For that matter I think that an average Travancorean is as good or as bad as any average Briton in understanding the civic responsibilities or civic duties. I will even go to the extent of saying that in Travancore things are better because there is a Hindu background which emphasizes on duties—Dharma—rather than on rights. Therefore the people of the East, at any rate of

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India, can approach that problem in a better frame of mind than the Westerners. I also believe at the same time that we should either have constitutional Government with all that it means or none of it at all. I do not believe in homeopathic doses of constitutional reform, in the way of a Co-operative Inspector or a Registrar becoming a glorified minister or a sun-dried bureaucrat going in the company of ministers chosen from a minority party of a Legislature. That is a mockery indeed.

Certainly the present statusquo is infinifely better than any such possible scheme. I am confident Sir, that if the Government have a mind to do it, there is nothing standing in the way of the accomplishment of constitutional rule. Travancore can get the credit of being the first Indian State to give real constitutional freedom to the people. I do not want to enter into any controversy. I only contend myself by saying that if His Majesty the King Emperor could keep to the terms of the treaties the Indian princes had with John Company under a system of Parliamentary Government, there is nothing preventing His Gracious Highness the Maharaja of Travancore also fulfilling that part of the treaty or Sanad or agreement with a constitutional government this side. Therefore I would suggest that the present head of the Government be pleased to transform himself into a President of the Council of Ministers. During the transition period the reserved subjects may be kept under the control of the Dewan with the complete power of veto in other subjects. I am confident that a person who had a very prominent and considerable part in successfully conducting the administration of dyarchic system in one of the provincial governments, resembling the cart drawn by the bull and buffalo of the fables, can certainly find the means for adjusting matters with such a docile and law-abiding people as Travancoreans.

President : The House will now adjourn and meet again at 2 o' clock.

The Hous adjourned for lunch at 1 p, m.

The House reassembled at 2 p. m. with the President in the Chair.

MEMBER SWORN.

Dr. K. L. Moudgill (*Ag. Pro-Vice Chancellor, University of Travancore*) took the oath and signed the Rolls.

Mr. Kochickal P. Balakrishnan Tampi : Sir, I was at the point of constitutional reforms of Indian States and in that connection I have to say that if any body were to say that he is not

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a believer in democracy the most terrible thing you can tell him s that he must be more a believer of Bread, because if a person tal s against democracy in India today I think he must come within the Defence of India Act. The whole point on which we congratulate the Financial Secretary for finding funds towards war efforts is because of our sympathy with democracy. If one were to say anything against the faith of millions who are dying for the cause of democracy today I think he must come within the law of sedition in Travancore because His Gracious Highness the Maharaja, when inaugurating the Legislature has said that His aim is to associate non-officials more and more in the administration of the State ; a truly democratic view. During lunch interval I was reminded of an incident in the Vicar of Wakefield in which Dr. Primrose with all seriousness entering into a discussion regarding the merits of monogamy--whether a priest should marry after the death of his first wife or not-with his son's would be father-in-law. It was a good match for his son. But he continued the discussion with great vigour. He won the victory in controversy but lost the match. I do not mean to enter into a discussion regarding the merits of constitutional reform or democracy in Indian States, fearing I would share the fate of Dr. Primrose. All that I have to say is that it may be considered very sympathetically by the Government in view of the repeated announcements made by the Government. It is that non-official Travancoreans would be associated more and more in the administration of the State. In this connection I wish to thank the Government for the compliment they have paid to the work of the Advisory Committee. As a member of one of the committees I want to assure this house that they got every possible help from the Government as well as from the department concerned. That again is another point in my view that we are eminently fitted for responsible Government. As a member of the P. W. D. Advisory Board I was afraid whether the Engineers, the technical men, would condescend to discuss P. W. D. mattters with representatives, ordinary farmers and traders. It was a pleasant surprise to see that they fully appreciated the aim of our work and they were certainly very helpful to us as I dare say we were helpful to them. But a committee is only a committee and an Advisory Committee does not go far enough to envisage or satisfy the legitimate aspirations of the people.

Mr. M. Govindan : Sir, I wish to congratulate my friend the Financial Secretary for the very lucid speech that he has made. We are passing through very difficult times. We are in the midst

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of a world war, a devastating world war. It was suspected that the finances of the State would not be normal when the accounts are placed before us. We had serious anticipations. But the account that has been placed before us shows that the conditions are more or less normal. The deficit that one would expect is not particularly noticeable anywhere. The credit for all that is due to the Government of the country. I, for one, feel that it was a great achievement that we have been able to produce such a balanced budget in such a difficult time. Generally I am inclined only to compliment the Government and the Financial Secretary for the success of the financial administration of the country. But I would be failing in my duty if I do not point out certain aspects of the finance which bear upon the important development departments of the State.

Before proceeding to do so, may I make one or two suggestions with regard to the statement made by the Chair regarding three items of policy or measures which the Government is contemplating to adopt immediately. The first is with regard to the provision of a lakh of rupees for real and urgent necessity. I may submit here that I consider that as a very important measure for the simple reason that when there is distress we cannot wait to see what the financial condition is before we get the redress. Redress cannot wait. Relief must be urgent. I can give a small instance. Year before last we had heavy rains and a number of Harijan houses collapsed But it took nearly 8 or 10 months for the relief to come. Government were willing to give the relief. But by the time relief came it was 8 or 10 months and the result is that the poor people had to suffer great hardship. Similar difficulties may arise and the timeliness of the help is quite important. If there is a budgetted sum for the purpose, all correspondence on the subject could be avoided and immediate help afforded. So, it is a very thoughtful measure for which the Government have to be congratulated

Then with regard to weights and measures. Although it may appear a small matter, it is a real difficulty. It is the experience of myself and I think of other honourable members that hawkers come to purchase old papers and they bring with them a kind of weight which does not tally with the weights which are used in the next shop from where we purchase our articles. I had my experience just three days ago. But I do not find time to communicate it to the police and take the necessary action. So the measure is very important. It will affect the daily life of the people.

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Then with regard to the standard time. I look at the question with mixed feelings. Usually our custom here was to attend courts and offices at 11'0 clock and 11'0 clock meant sometimes 12 or half-past 12 as the case may be. We were accustomed to our habits of eating and drinking in this way. Of course it will be good if we also follow the Madras Time. I can perfectly see that. Otherwise there will be a lot of difficulty and confusion. But in adopting that time it does not necessarily follow that we should have the same office time. So the office time of 10-30 may be changed to 11-30. It will be more in conformity with our old tendency.

President : But what about the afternoon ?

Mr. M. Govindan : If the Chair means the interval, it may also be postponed to 3'0 clock. That was the usual interval time before. Now it is advanced.

Then I have to go back to my usual topic of the provision for backward communities and their education.

I find from the figures of the Education Department that the number of children who were undergoing education is becoming less now than before although the amount provided for the purchase of books is little more than before. The fault is not the Government's but it is of the people, it may be said. But I may point out in this connection that some how or other encouragement must be given by allotting a little more money for the purchase of books. The amount that is now allotted is between six and seven thousand rupees. That will touch only the fringe. In fact, the number of boys attending school will be above 20,000. There are 10,000 pupils attending in one class, 7,000 in another class, 15,000 in the 1st class and 11,000 in the 2nd class. All these boys are to be given help. I have not come across any pupil of the backward community who is able to purchase his own books. If all these boys are to be provided with books, about thrice the amount that is now being budgeted for the purchase of books will have to be budgetted for. That will be another Rs. 12,000. And as for the attendance in the classes so far as the pupils of other communities are concerned owing to various causes, in 1114 the figure was much more than the figure in 1115 and 1116, and in 1117 the figures may be even less. On page

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58 of the Report of the Education Department for 1114 it was stated thus :—

> "That the introduction of restrictions in the grant of fee concessions account for a slight fall in the number of pupils under this head."

"The introduction of restrictions in the grant of fee concessions"— this takes me on to the subject of fee concessions. Originally, a boy has only to belong to the backward community to get fee concession, whatever be the number of failures he may have had. That was before. But later on, the financial implications of such a broad measure impressed themselves on the financial considerations of the authorities and they limited it to those who have failed twice. Of course, boys belonging to the backward communities like other boys perhaps fail a little more. Once, they may fail. If they fail twice they do not get concession now. That is the additional restriction, which has been imposed. This affects the attendance of the boys. It is admitted on page 58 of the Department's report for 1114. Now, I submit that if that is so,—I believe that it is so, and I have been arguing that always,—this fee concession restriction is too severe and that one failure alone during a whole course of 3 years, viz., the High School course, one chance is given to fail. That is not enough. There are students belonging to more advanced communities who have failed twice and thrice. In the case of the backward communities, the fact must be remembered that the environment of the pupil's home is not suitable to education. Also, there are many adverse circumstances under which he has to suffer. Therefore, a more sympathetic view should prevail in this case and he should be given a chance even if he fails twice. Then with regard to this restriction I have to make one more observation. If these restrictions are to make the attendance poorer and if even irrespective of these restrictions, generally, the attendance is getting poorer in these days the necessity for a modest measure of compulsion for education becomes apparent. Sir, I must submit, at least in the municipal areas a trial must be made and then in the course of a few years compulsory education may be introduced in the State as a whole. Then there will be no apprehension regarding this falling off in attendance and considerable wastage in the matter of education may also be avoided. Now, if 100 boys enter the elementary school in the lowest class and only 30 of them go up to the higher class, then 70 per cent of the boys lapse into illiteracy. That is, 70 per cent of the 16 lakhs. For this huge majority the education that they got is only a sheer

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waste. Therefore, Sir, I submit, that if you do not adopt measures to maintain a fair proportion of attendance in the higher class, no tangible good is done in the matter of spreading of the education. So, for the spread of literacy among all the people of the State you should enable 70 or 80 per cent of the pupils of the lowest class to pass on to the higher class. With these observations I would again congratulate the Financial Secretary for the able speech that he has made and also for another thing. I knew the Financial Secretary before as a shrewd and intelligent man but I never knew him as a parliamentarian. For the first time when he goes to the Council he stands up and answers questions behaving exactly as if he had been here for the last 12 years. I feel very glad of that and I congratulate him again.

Mr. K. K. Kuruvilla: Sir, I always read with very great interest the speeches that are made by the Dewan-President. I do that to see and understand some of the ideas that it invariably contains as to the future of the administration. In the course of the reading of the Dewan-President's speech at the joint sitting of the two legislatures, two things specially commanded my attention. The first thing is the announcement that a provision of Rs. 10 lakhs has been made for the poor starving people of the State. This morning he told us that another lakh will be reserved for the same purpose. We also know that much endeavours are being made for the development of industries and manufactures. Leaving that on one side, I read the Financial Secretary's speech as well. When I read that I was disappointed to some extent. He has stated that only half the amount which was provided last year for the relief of distress was spent. I wonder whether the need was so little that only half of that amount was required. Sir, I want to present this question of the lower middle class and the poor. These two classes are different in the degree of suffering. Now, Sir, the lower middle class is rapidly sinking into pauperism. The reasons for this are mainly twofold. Firstly, it is due to their inability to raise enough food materials in this country and secondly the difficulty in marketing their goods. We all know that they do not get enough money to carry on their work. When we look into the budget, it is rather disappointing to see that very little has been reserved in the budget which should go a long way to solve the distress of the lower middle class. From among the 195 items we have only 28 items here in the budget as benefiting the lower middle class. In the matter of provision for co-operation, or for the establishment of warehouses or for any other agricultural or industrial organisations for that

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matter, I find that nothing has been done. Unless we deal with this question in a large and comprehensive point of view, I do not know how the problem can be solved.

Now I find, fortunately, that our industry has developed to such a stage that, in this year's budget, we do not have to invest so much money as we did during the past two years. My submission is that the amounts that can be saved this year and the years to come, must be set apart for the amelioration and for the progress of the lower middle classes. I wish, with all the energy and enthusiasm which I can command, to request Government that a certain amount of money almost equal to the amount that has been spent for Palliyasal, may as well be invested in the cause of the lower middle classes. I hope that in the coming two years the administration will see that the amount budgeted will be made available to the middle classes, that individuals could be provided for with funds by which they could get what little money they want to develop their agriculture. If that cannot be achieved through co-operative or through credit banks, I submit, Sir, that with all your love for the people, another scheme must be discovered by which funds could be made available to the lower middle classes. The second is about the 2,00,000 people about whom I have previously referred. I make myself bold to say that because I know particularly the interests which you, Sir, entertain in the cause of the lower middle classes, relief measures may be devised for relieving the cause of the poor. I do not want a temporary measure which may not last at least for a few years. But I have often wondered whether we could not effect some relief works which may be more permanent. I am sorry that, in this case, we had not had even a suggestion or advice from the heads of the industrial and agricultural departments. We expected that they would guide us in this matter and tell us what we should do. We have had Government servants in other departments who have given us suggestions. These could be done better if Industries, Public Health, Medical, and Co-operative departments are brought under the control of one man so that he can coordinate the work of the various departments and strive for the welfare of the poor. It has been said here that both the Medical and Public Health Departments should be brought under the same person. I would rather suggest that the Public Health Department may be brought under the Industries and Co-operative Departments combined, so that village re-construction may be undertaken by one strong man who is interested. I do hope therefore that attention will be devoted to these two things this year for ameliorating the condition of the poor and for setting the lower middle class on their feet.

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[Mr. K. K. Kuruvilla.]

Sir, I desire to turn to another question about which Mr. Balakrishnan Tampi has already made some reference. In the concluding remarks of your speech to the joint session of the Legislature, Sir, you said: "This Government will not be behind in asking for counsel in obtaining .....public will". If I have understood this speech rightly and if newspaper reports are right one is led to think that responsible Government as it is understood, is not possible in this country at present. The second is that a conference with the heads of the departments may be at least considered to be an executive one. Thirdly, the Government will be glad to ask the council to obtain the opinion and to study the will of the people. I have thought and I repeat this now, how this public will could be made known to Government or what is the way by which this can be achieved. Leaving the question of responsible Government aside, I am not a lawyer and I cannot discuss the problem—I was wondering how this can be done and from your speech I understand, Sir, that it is through the Advisory Board that the trial is being made. I do not believe that these Advisory Boards are of any use, but if advice is to be rightly given the man who gives advice must be possessed of all facts and if the present Advisory Committees should give proper advice, the members constituting them must be given adequate facilities to know more of the inner working of these departments. I submit to you, Sir, to consider whether the functions of the advisory bodies be so enlarged that they may be able to discharge their duties in the right direction and unless that is possible, I do not think these Advisory Boards will be able to give adequate and helpful advice.

In regard to the conference with heads of departments, I am one who feels that the advice which heads of departments give need not always necessarily be based on the facts as are understood by people in this country. A departmental head who gets salary from Government, must necessarily be loyal to the Government. He must exercise a certain amount of prudence also. In the case of a departmental head, he has to consider what the policy in general of the Government is. A non-official who is not so much in the know of things and does not know Government policy, is more free to express his views and to make them known. Moreover, every four years he has to face his constituency. Therefore my submission is, that before action is taken after conference with the heads of departments, consultation may be made with an organised body of non-officials. In this way the will of the people may be better known. Well, may I quote one instance where the suggestions of the people

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are not always taken into account. I have been repeating to you, Sir, and to other departmental heads for the past three or four years about kandukrishi lands whose owners if they converted agricultural land to garden lands should have to pay a penalty of 5 times the tax with the arrears of about 15 years also. Everybody who knows, Sir, the condition of the agriculturists in this country, knows that it is almost impossible and, yet that order was enforced. I believe, Sir, that if a non-official, even if incompetent, had been consulted, he would have said and said strongly that it is not the kind of policy that should be adopted for the benefit of the country. I therefore feel that, with your great interest in developing the economic condition of the lower middle classes in this country, some body may be created which may be responsible to Government and which may serve as a step forward by which Government will be able constitutionally to know the will of the people apart from that of their own Government servants.

Sahib Bahadur T. Mahomed Ismail: Sir, a casual reading of the budget memorandum--a document of great importance—will show that for the past several years, with few exceptions, we had deficits although surplus budgets were introduced before the Legislatures and the Government being congratulated for that. This year also, a surplus budget is placed before us but because of the exceptional circumstances prevailing both in Travancore and outside, I do not think we are going to have a surplus at the end of the year. But a careful study of the details of the Budget, a reading of the Financial Secretary's speech and an intelligent understanding of the statement of the Dewan made on the budget, will clearly convince one that the Government are determined to make the country self-sufficient, by intensive cultivation and industrialisation. In short, there is a determination to achieve economic stability; but if this determination is to be carried to a successful conclusion, certainly we require more money for such purposes as ameliorative works and for that, the only means by which money could be saved, is by means of reducing the public expenditure, as far as possible. Of course, when I speak of this reduction in public expenditure, I am reminded of the Dewan's statement that no salary cut is contemplated. But I am glad to point out that by a recent notification, the Government have reduced the pay in the case of 33 officers carrying a salary of Rs. 500 to Rs. 400 hereafter. Hence by a stroke of the pen, you, Sir, have succeeded in saving Rs. 40,000 a year and I may request you, Sir, that, by means of half a dozen such strokes, you can save about 5 lakhs of rupees. There is no reason for any heart-burning if the pay of Rs. 1,000 is reduced to Rs. 800 or Rs. 800 to Rs. 700,

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At the same time, I may also request that the conditions of the large body of people drawing a salary of 7 or 10 rupees, especially at this time when prices of things have gone up, may be bettered by giving at least a rupee or two as dearness allowance so that they may be saved from the war effects.

There is also another method by which this reduction of public expenditure could be effected. For instance, some departments may be amalgamated. I may point out that the Game Warden's office—really a white elephant—may very well be amalgamated with the Forest Department, so also the Public Health with Medical, and Anchal with Registration. All these measures have the effect of reducing the number of officers also. In many departments we have more than the necessary number of officers. Where we had two Government Pleaders we have four, where we had one, we have two. In the Engineering Department we have two or three Chief Engineers, Executive Engineers and a battalion of other engineers. In the Police Department we have the I. G., D. I. G., A. I. G's and others. This is the case in other departments also. Therefore, if the Government is really serious in the matter of reducing public expenditure they can find ways and means to do so.

Often when I speak on the budget, I have to speak on the attitude of Government towards the Muslim community. It is rather a very troublesome affair, because the Chief Secretary will come forward with a list of persons appointed from the Muslim community—from peons to Arabic Munshis; and the Inspector General of Police posing as the representative of the Muslims of Travancore, will come forward with a longer list and broadcast to the outside world that Muslims have got more than their legitimate share. But the fact remains that we are not given proper representation in public service. For the last three years, if we take an account of the appointments made direct by Government we cannot but say that not a single office of importance has been given to any Muslim. I ask the Government whether there is a single Munsiff or a Government Pleader from the Muslims. It was after a long period of agitation that one man was appointed in the Secretariat as an Assistant Secretary. He is not there now, and the Secretariat is not to be blessed with a Muslim.

Rajyasevapraveena Khan Bahadur G. S. Abdul Karim Sahib Suhrawardy: Has he not been promoted as the Anchal Superintendent?

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Sahib Bahadur T. Mahomed Ismail: What I stated was that at present there is no Muslim in the Secretariat. The honourable gentleman wants me to go to the Anchal Department for a Muslim Officer. That is really a pathetic condition. Even assuming for argument's sake that a particular appointment was given to a Muslim in the Anchal Department, it is one individual holding all the three posts as Munsiff, as Assistant Secretary and now as Anchal Superintendent.

In regard to small appointments made by Government I must say that it is really a pity that when an ordinary non-Muslim graduate is appointed, for particular reasons, on Rs. 70 or Rs. 100, a Muslim who is more qualified is appointed on Rs. 25-40. I can quote instances for this but I do not want to do so lest they should suffer.

Mr. Kochikal P. Balakrishnan Tampi: May I know whether there is any G. O, to this effect?

Sahib Bahadur T. Mahomd Ismail: No; that is why this partiality is shown.

President: Will the honourable member kindly repeat his last observation about some people with parallel qualifications being appointed on Rs. 25 and Rs. 70?

Sahib Bahadur T. Mahomd Ismail: Sir, I know that certain ordinary non-Muslim graduates were appointed on Rs. 70-100, while a Muslim Law Graduate was appointed on Rs. 25-40 in the Secretariat. Another Muslim, B. A., M. Com. is appointed on Rs. 25-40. These are mere facts of recent occurrence.

Then, in the matter of nominations to iustitutions such as the Senate and the Faculties, Muslims are completely ignored. The Government, probably, think that in the Senate non-official Muslim opinion is not at all necessary and that they are satisfied with the representation of a Government officer. I must say that, if the Government think so, they are really mistaken. In the case of the Text Book Committee, perhaps Government may think that Muslim gentlemen do not know anything about literary works. I may say without any contradiction that there are better people in the Muslim community who can well serve in the Text Book Committee than many of the members nominated therein. Take the case of the Faculties.

Dr. K. L. Moudgill: May I point out that the faculties are academic bodies which have nothing to do with class representation and administration?

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Sahib Bahadur T. Mahomed Ismail: You can find out justification for anything. I am only saying that in this particular case the Muslims have not got any representation while all other communities are represented.

Mr. Kochikal P. Balakrishnan Tampi: Was not the honourable member on the Senate and some of the Faculties?

Sahib Bahadur T. Mahomed Ismail: I was there for a term but that does not mean that when a new election took place there should be no one from among Muslims.

Dr. K. L. Moudgill: Sir, I beg to state most emphatically that representation on the Faculties by the Syndicate or the Vice-Chancellor has not been made on communal basis.

Sahib Bahadur T. Mahomed Ismail: Sir, as I have already stated you can justify any appointments or any nomination; but the fact remains that the Muslims are shut out.

Honourable members, (Mr. Kachikal P. Balakrishnan Tampi and the Inspector-General of Police stood up in their seats.

Sahib Bahadur T. Mahomed Ismail: One at a time please.

President: Order, order, I deprecate more than one person speaking at the same time; but I also deprecate points being decided by honourable members on the floor of the House.

Rajyasevapraveena Khan Bahadur G. S. Abdul Karim Sahib Suhrawardy: May I inform the member that I was nominated to the Senate because Mr. Ismail and Mr. P. S. Muhamed quarrelled with each other for the seat?

Sahib Bahadur T. Mahomed Ismail: I shall answer.....

President: The honourable member has just five minutes more.

Sahib Bahadur T. Mahomed Ismail: I will now answer the Inspector General of Police. His question is an implicating one.

Prsident: Order, order. After all, nominations are made by X or Y; and the motive apparent in the mind of X or Y can hardly be discussed on the floor of the House where neither X nor Y is functioning.

Sahib Bahadur T. Mahomed Ismail: What he stated was that I and another man quarrelled with each other.

President: Orrder, order. Supposing honourable members quarrelled, that was a case of what may be called psychology or incompatibility of temperament. But these are matters which really can not form the subject of debate on the floor of this House.

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Sahib Bahadur T. Mahomed Ismail: Since he has stated it I must definitely say that he has made a statement affecting my character.

President: Order, order. Men of the very highest character do quarrel.

Sahib Bahadur T. Mahomed Ismail: But, in fact, there was no quarrel. Further I never wanted any authority to nominate me to the Senate. Therefore, Sir, the statement he has made is incorrect and he must withdraw.

President: Order, order. This has gone a little beyond what may be called ordinary boundaries. The honourable member from the Treasury ? Bench made a psychological assumption which may be or which may not be justified but which was not uniparliamentary. The suggestion that because A and B quarrelled with each other and that therefore C was nominated may be correct or may not be correct. But it certainly does not cast any reflection on the character of anybody. That being so, there can be no appeal to the Chair for withdrawal of an observation which is not unparliamentary.

Sahib Bahadur T. Mahomed Ismail: What I want to bring out is that in these matters, both in appointments to public service and nominations to public bodies, there is reason to believe that Muslims are ignored completely. I have been searching for some time the reason for this. From historical facts there is evidence to show that Muslims were very loyal to the throne and that they were fully supporting the Government, through thick and thin. The Dewan has stated that the Muslim community stood *enbloc* with the Government. There was no sign of any disloyalty among the Muslims at any time throughout the long period. I have gone through the State Manual prepared about thirty years ago. There is nothing in it against the Muslims. In the new State Manual also, the compilation of which is entrusted to a great scholar, there is nothing against the loyalty of the Muslims. Still we are ignored. Why ? The answer is found elsewhere. From practical experience we find that if any community wants recognition, wants appointments, that community has only to be divided into two parties, one party against the Government and the other party with the Government. The party with the Government will easily get recognition and appointments. After a time the party fighting against the Government has only to turn back and apologise to get appointments.

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Mr. Kochikal P. Balakrishnan Tampi: The Muslims also are doing that.

Sahib Bahadur T. Mahomed Ismail: No. Where is the instance? There is no use of these abstract statements unless they are substantiated by proof.

Therefore I think it is time for us to consider, and request Government also to consider, this matter seriously.

President: As to whether your community can divide into two parties, that is a matter for the community to decide.

Sahib Bahadur T. Mahomed Ismail: Yes Sir. We have learnt a lesson from hard facts.

As regards responsible government of which Messrs. Balakrishnan Tampi and Kuruvilla spoke, we, the Muslims, always welcome responsible government. But the responsible government of the Westminister type that Mr. Tampi wants, I think, is not suitable here. The form of government which is found in a particular country is based on the conditions and circumstances under which the people in that country live. We are not living in the same atmosphere as the Englishmen in England. If the Dewan's statement is not very explicit on the matter as stated by Mr. Tampi, it is due to the difficulty of putting forward a practical, clearly cut-out plan to suit this country. In Travancore we shall always welcome a form of responsible government that is suited to the conditions here, especially in view of the fact that this country is inhabited by different communities having their own culture and civilisation. Subject to that and with proper safeguards for the minority communities I will always welcome any form of responsible government.

Mr. Kochikkal P. Balakrishnan Tampi: Even if it comes to the thin edge of Pakisthan?

Sahib Bahadur T. Mahomed Ismail: If it comes to that we are prepared for it.

Mr. G. Narayana Aiyar: Sir, I wish to congratulate the Financial Secretary on the budget that has been presented by him and also on the budget memorandum which is very instructive and very necessary for a proper understanding of the budget. The budget presented to us seems to be a budget that has been prepared at a time of peace when there are no difficulties. The revenue seems to be increasing steadily. It has increased by Rs. 25

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lakhs during the past four years. There has also been a steady increase in expenditure and a sum of Rs. 8½ lakhs was allowed as tax remission during the last 4 years. The recent standardisation order that has been passed by Government may in course of time bring some sort of reduction in the pensionary contribution which is increasing year after year. The pensionary contribution at present stands at over Rs. 20 lakhs but in course of time I think that there will be substantial reduction effected in it.

Going through the budget, I was rather anxious when I found that on the whole there was no provision for relief works during the next year as in previous years. Although there was a provision of Rs. 5 lakhs under Distress Relief Fund last year, there is no such provision this year. It gave me satisfaction to here from you, Sir, that annually Rs. one lakh will be earmarked for this purpose and that for the next year 1¼ lakhs will be set apart which amounts will not lapse if not spent. It is rather surprising to find that Government did not bestow proper attention in giving ample relief to those parts which are very seriously affected by the recent cyclone. In this connection I may refer to the speech delivered by you Sir, at the Joint Session of the two Houses wherein you have referred to the Persian proverb "Delhi is far away". Most probably because the taluks of Kunnatnad and Parur are far away from Trivandrum the government are not able to bestow sufficient attention to the needs and grievances of those taluqs. Parur is nearly 170 miles away from the capital and Kunnatnad is about 150 miles from the capital, and transport facilities are not sufficient. Those Taluqs are the farthermost away from the capital. In this connection I would also bring to the notice of Government the urgent necessity for extending the State Transport service immediately to Kunnatnad and Parur taluqs, whether this scheme is profitable or not. It is necessary for the interest and safety of the agriculturists that this scheme should be extended to the northernmost parts of Travancore as early as possible. It may not be that it will give a definite profit. There are several departments of State which are working at a loss. The actual consideration in such cases should be the convenience to the public and the usefulness of the undertaking. Viewed in that light, it is high time that the Transport Service is extended to the northern parts of Travancore.

Sir, the taluks of Kunnatnad and Parur have been continuously subjected to floods during the last sixty years. The flood of 1057 was considered as unparalleled in the history of Travancore till the floods of 1099. There were very high floods in 1062-71 82,106 and other years. So much so no year passes without these taluks being visited twice or thrice by heavy floods. Unfortunately

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[Mr. G. Narayana Aiyar]

probably because those taluks are far away from the capital they do not attract sufficient attention of Government. Nothing substantial has been done to relieve the continued suffering of the people. Floods are said to be due to two causes——scientifically the causes may be different. The first is natural and excessive rainfall and the disafforestation policy followed till recently and the second is the opening of the Periar dam frequently. The public impression is that the Periyar dam is opened only on the Travancore side and not on the eastern side. If it is opened on the eastern side also a large volume of water will flow to that side as well. Floods are not exactly due to the heavy rains. Local people say that the disafforestation policy of Government is materially responsible for the floods. When the rain sets in and there are no trees in the forests water percolates through the soil and the soil is washed away. Water is not retained anywhere in the hills. So much so the Periyar river is now completely silted. For a long time it was thought that the waters of the Periyar river have got certain medical properties which would even cure diseases. People from British India used to come over to Alwaye for the purpose of bathing. But now there is not sufficient water even for bathing. Year after year the P. W. D. are spending some money to remove the silt in certain portions of the river. That is all the work done there. My suggestion is that some volume of water in that river can very well be diverted for purposes of irrigation by putting up dams higher up. I would request Government to appoint a committee with a non-official majority to go into the question of suggesting remedies for preventing the continuous floods. If this flood continues year after year, unchecked we may have to repent very seriously later on because these taluks which also contribute largely to the State revenues may not be able to do so in course of time. The land tax from Parur is about 1·29 lakhs of rupees and from Kunnatnad it is about 1·36 lakhs. The population of Kunnatnad is a little over 2,26,000 and Parur over, 1,84,000. The taxation per head is not very light. In spite of realisation of such a large amount under land tax nothing substantial is being done to relieve their sufferings from the continuous floods. The flood that comes due to the fregrent opening of the Periyar dam carries water which does not contain any silt or manure. That water generally does not in any way serve any useful purpose to agriculture. It washes away the manure in the fields. Therefore it is high time that the Government bestow their kind attention to this matter. I would refer to the decision the Government have kindly arrived at in respect of another place. At Page 218 of the budget we find that a special

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staff has been appointed for the investigation of flood and silt discharges in the Vembanad Lake. A sum of Rs. 3,000 has been set apart for that purpose. That is the way in which the Government are trying to appease some people probably because they are noisy. The people of Kunnatnad and Parur are not at all noisy and they are most law-abiding. I request Government to take this matter into serious consideration and appoint a committee with a non-official majority to suggest ways and means for adequate relief as early as possible. I also agree with my honourable friend Mr. Kuruvilla and say that unless these committees are given some status and power the mere appointment of the committee may not serve any useful purpose. Sir, you will kindly consider this aspect of the question and do what is possible. I thank the Government for the contribution of Rs. 4,000 for Distress Relief, in the taluqs of Parur and Kunnatnad due to the recent cyclone even though the amount is only nominal.

President : It is not expected that the relief will be commensurate with the havoc. Officers have been asked to tour and report about the conditions there, and I propose myself to tour in those areas immediately after the Council Session is over, and orders will be passed on that soon.

Mr. G. Narayana Aiyar : I am very thankful to you, Sir, for the assurance and I do not propose to say anything more on the subject.

The next point I wish to refer to is about provision made for lift irrigation for improving and increasing paddy cultivation in the Kunnatnad Taluk. There is very great scope for carring on intensive paddy cultivation in various places in that taluq. If the Periyar water is diverted a little high up by putting up a dam it could irrigate large tracts of lands which now lie as swamps. An officer was recently appointed for investigating the pros and cons of lift irrigation in Kunnatnad in Medam this year. By the time he took charge all the lands were under water. He is a very competent and able officer. It is very necessay to continue his service. There are sufficient possibilities in Parur Taluk also. I would, therefore, request Government to extend his period sufficiently long so that all possible lands which could be improved safely for paddy cultivation by lift irrigation may be ascertained and tried.

The public are thankful for the orders Government have passed in regard to yarn. There is great profiteering. Yarn should not be allowed to be exported during this war time. The duty on cardamoms and the increase in the duty on tea are fully justified. It is only those who are able to pay that are affected. It does not affect the poor. With these words, I conclude my speech.

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Mr. P. R. Godavarma Raja (*Edavagais*) : Sir, I am glad to associate myself with the opinions expressed by most of the honourable members of this House and congratulate the Financial Secretary for the surplus budget he has presented before the House.

President : The honourable member will kindly raise his voice.

Mr. P. R. Godavarma Raja : One particular feature of the budget this year is that it has been supplemented by a memorandum which explains the details of the items of income and expenditure included in it.

It is a very good thing to find that the Government are keenly alive to the extraordinary situation created by the world war which is a tragic catastrophe which the whole world has to face. Government have effected the utmost economy in the matter of expenditure. I find that next year also Government have proposed measures for reducing further expenditure and the savings made on that account are to be utilised for ameliorative work. It is gratifying to note that in the matter of expenditure, the lower ranks of officers have not been affected but only the superior officers. In the matter of travelling allowance, a maximum limit has been fixed, so that on the whole, the Government are saving a substantial sum. It is also a good thing to note that a reserve fund has been set apart in order to cope with the emergencies that might happen next year. Due to war conditions the people of Travancore are experiencing difficulties just like other countries in the matter of clothing. Yarn merchants find it very difficult to get sufficient yarn and I am glad to note that the Government have taken strong measures to remedy the situation to some extent.

In regard to the injudicious cultivation of the hilly tracts in Travancore, I agree with the opinion expressed by the President at the joint session. Even though it may not be palatable to some people I strongly support the view. But I have to point out that the Government is also responsible for this because of the injudicious registry of the hilly tracts. I also submit in this connection that I am against the indiscriminate disafforestation that is being resorted to. It is a pity that rivers in Travancore are being silted up with sand which is annually washed down the hills during monsoon season. The land-owners are doing a positive mistake in this matter and it is high time that this should be remedied. It is gratifying to find that Government have realised the dangerous situation and as a consequence they propose to take prompt measures to remedy this situation even by means of legislation if necessary. I emphasize this aspect of the matter because I have a great interest in the land problems in the State.

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Sahib Bahadur Haji Hassan Yacoob Sait : (*Commercial Industry—North*): തിരുവിതാംകൂറിലെ അടുത്ത വർഷത്തെ ബഡ്ജറിൽ അപ്രതീക്ഷിതവും അവിചാരിതവുമായി വരുന്ന ചിലവുകൾക്കും മറ്റുമായി ഒൻപതു ലക്ഷം രൂപ നീക്കിവച്ചും ഒന്നര ലക്ഷം രൂപ മിച്ചം കാണിക്കത്തക്കതായ ഒരു ബഡ്ജറും, മഹാ യുദ്ധത്തിന്റെ ഫലമായി ലോകം മുഴുവനും ബാധിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള വ്യാപാര മാന്ദ്യം, സാമ്പത്തികാധഃപതനം മുതലായ കാരണങ്ങളാൽപോലും ജനോപദ്രവകരങ്ങളായ നികുതികൾ ഏർപ്പെടുത്താതെ തയാറാക്കിയതിൽ ഫിനാൻഷ്യൽസെക്രട്ടറി അനുമോദനാർഹനാണെന്നുള്ളതു് നിസ്സന്ദേഹമായ ഒരു സംഗതിയാണു്. ഈ ബഡ്ജറും നമ്മുടെ കോശസ്ഥിതിയുടെ സുഭദ്രതയെ കാണിക്കുന്നു. ഇന്നത്തെ യുദ്ധാപരിതസ്ഥിതികൾനിമിത്തം ഉണ്ടായിട്ടുള്ള തൊഴിലില്ലായ്മ, സാമ്പത്തികദുരിതങ്ങൾ മുതലായവയുടെ നിവാരണത്തിനായും മറ്റും ഗണ്യമായ ഒരു സംഖ്യ ചിലവാക്കണമെന്നുള്ള ഗവണ്മെൻറിന്റെ ആഗ്രഹം ശ്ലാഘനീയമായിരിക്കുന്നു. നമ്മുടെ വിഭവങ്ങളെ ശരിയായ വിധത്തിൽ അഭിവൃദ്ധിപ്പെടുത്തുന്നതിനും അവയെ വേണ്ടവിധത്തിൽ വിനിയോഗിക്കുന്നതിനും അവയ്ക്കു് വേണ്ട വിപണികൾ കണ്ടുപിടിക്കുന്നതിനും ഉള്ള പരിശ്രമങ്ങൾ അഭിനന്ദനീയംതന്നെ. പള്ളിവാസൽ ഇലക്ട്രിക്ക് പദ്ധതി, സെറാമിക്ഫാക്ടറി, ടങ്ക്ടെലഫോൺ മുതലായി ഗവണ്മെൻറിനു ഭാവിയിൽ നല്ല വരവു പ്രതീക്ഷിക്കാവുന്നതായ പദ്ധതികളുടെ വിപുലീകരണം ശ്രേയസ്കരമായിരിക്കുന്നു. തിരുവിതാംകൂറിൽ ഒരു സിമൻറ്ഫാക്ടറി സ്ഥാപിക്കുന്നതിനുള്ള സാദ്ധ്യതകളെപ്പറ്റി ആരാഞ്ഞറിയുന്നതിന് വേണ്ട പ്രാരംഭനേപഷണങ്ങൾ നടത്തുകയും അതിനു് അനുകൂലപരിതസ്ഥിതികൾ ഉണ്ടെന്നു പൂർണ്ണമായി ബോദ്ധ്യപ്പെട്ടതിനുശേഷം അടുത്തുതന്നെ ഇവിടെ പ്രസ്തുത ഫാക്ടറി സ്ഥാപിക്കുന്നതിനുള്ള ഗവണ്മെൻറിന്റെ തീരുമാനവും വ്യവസായീകരണത്തിനു സചിവോത്തമന്റെ ഗവണ്മെൻറിനുള്ള അതീവ താല്പര്യത്തെ വെളിപ്പെടുത്തുന്നു. റബ്ബറിനും തേയിലയ്ക്കും ഏർപ്പെടുത്തിയിരിക്കുന്ന നികുതി നീതീകരിക്കത്തക്കതാണു്. ലാൻഡ്റവന്യൂകമ്മീഷണർ ഉദ്യോഗം നിറുത്തലാക്കിയതും സഹകരണവകുപ്പു് കൃഷിഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിനോടു് ചേർത്തിട്ടുള്ളതും കഴിയുന്നത്ര ചിലവുകൾ കുറയ്ക്കുന്നതിനുള്ള ഗവണ്മെൻറിന്റെ സന്നദ്ധതയെ തെളിയിക്കുന്നു.

നമ്മുടെ പള്ളിക്കൂടങ്ങളിൽ ഉച്ചപ്പട്ടിണിക്കാരായിട്ടുള്ള സാധുവിദ്യാർത്ഥികൾക്കു് ഉച്ചയ്ക്കു് ഒരുനേരം ഭക്ഷണം കൊടുക്കുന്ന വിഷയത്തിലും ഗവണ്മെൻറിന്റെ പ്രത്യേക ശ്രദ്ധ പതിയേണ്ടതും ഇതിലേയ്ക്കു

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[Sahib Bahadur Haji Hassan Yacoob Sait]

പ്രത്യേകം ഒരു തുക അനുവദിക്കേണ്ടതുമാണ്. ഇൻഡ്യാഗവണ്മെൻറും തിരുവിതാംകൂർഗവണ്മെൻറും തമ്മിൽ ഫ്രണ്ട്ഷിപ്പിൽ ഉണ്ടാക്കിയിട്ടുള്ള ഇൻറർ പോർട്ടൽ ട്രേഡ് കൺവെൻഷൻ ഒപ്പിട്ടിട്ട് ചിലപ്പോൾ വർഷങ്ങളായിട്ടും പുതുക്കാതെയിരിക്കുന്നതു് പരിതാപകരമായിരിക്കുന്നു. അത്യധികം പ്രാധാന്യമുള്ള ഈ വിഷയം ഗവൺമെൻറിൻറെ ആലോചനയ്ക്ക് വിഷയീഭവിക്കേണ്ടതാണ്. ചുരുക്കിപ്പറയുന്നപക്ഷം പ്രജകളുടെ ഐശ്വര്യത്തെയും ക്ഷേമത്തെയും വർദ്ധിപ്പിക്കുന്നതിനും നമ്മുടെ രാജ്യം പലവിധത്തിൽ പുരോഗമിക്കുന്നതിനും നമ്മുടെ ദിവാൻ സചിവോത്തമൻ സർ സി. പി. രാമസ്വാമി അയ്യർ അക്ഷീണപരിശ്രമം ചെയ്യുന്നുവെന്നു കാണുന്നതു് അത്യധികം ശുഭസൂചകമായിരിക്കുന്നു.

Mr. K. M. Kesavan : Sir, Rumours were rife that the State finances were very unsteady and that we will have to face a deficit budget this time. These rumours gained such wide currency that ... ...

Mr. Kochickal P. Balakrishnan Tampi : Rumours from where? Certainly not from Travancore could such rumour come about.

President : How much do outsiders know of what takes place in Travancore ?

Mr. K. M Kesavan : I am afraid my friend has been hasty in putting me that question. I was trying to say that in spite of such rumours I was hardly inclined to believe such a state of affairs. And I was glad to find that the budget which was presented before the House proved to be a surplus budget. It is equally gratifying to note that this surplus budget the Finaucial Secretary was able to present without imposing any irksome or oppressive tax on the agriculturists who form the bulk of the population of this country.

Due to war and other abnormal conditions prevailing all the world over, it has become rather difficult for us particularly, to get as much paddy and rice, as is necessary for our use. It was pointed out on the floor of this House, more than once, that we must follow a policy of self-sufficiency at least in regard to the production of staple food crops. Now, increasing difficulty is being experienced for providing food to the increasing population of the State. To meet the growing demand in this matter, measures must be adopted to increase the output of paddy. I am glad to learn that Government have already taken sufficient interest in the matter of

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developing paddy cultivation. By the conversion of single-crop-lands into double-crop-lands and the annual cultivation of wet lands with the aid of electricity it is hoped that this deficiency could be met. I must also urge on Government the importance of encouraging the cultivation of pulses, raggee and other food crops and persuading the people to take a balanced diet. But profitable cultivation of paddy or any other crop pre-supposes the availability in plenty of rich manure, such as salt, prawn-skin and bone meal.

President : But why do people export bones out of the State without trying to form a bone meal factory ?

Mr. K. M. Kesavan : There is at present no restriction on its export and it is my request that Government should take adequate measures to restrict the export of these things. There is one thing which the Government, with some difficulty, can do in this matter. Salt, apart from its value as part of our food, is an important manure. The nationalisation of salt industry was also considered on the floor of this House. This industry is now in the hands of a few contractors and there is considerable difficulty with regard to its nationalisation. Government have certain contractual obligations with them. But if the Government are sufficiently interested in the welfare of the people, then the difficulty is not unsurmountable. With regard to prawn-skin, it is a useful manure which is largely produced in this country but because there is no restriction I understand that this is also largely exported, and so it is not available in sufficient quantities for the use of the cultivators in the State ?

Mr M. K. Ananthasiva Aiyar : May I know from the member whether it is not exported because there are not purchasers in the State ?

Mr. K. M Kesavan : Not at all, I understand there is great demand for the same here. But because it is too costly the poor cultivator whose indebtedness is proverbial is not able to purchase it.

It was pointed out, sometime back, by a responsible officer speaking from a platform that every year about 500 tons of bone is being exported from this country. Here also Government will have to exert their power to restrict its export. If religious sentiments will not stand in the way, I would even suggest the collection of human bones, of course, only those of dead persons.

Mr. Thomas Chandy Mukkadan : ആശുപത്രികളിലെ ശവശരീരങ്ങളിൽ ഉള്ള എല്ലുകൾ കൂടി എടുത്തു സൂക്ഷിക്കണമോ?

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Mr. K. M. Kesavan : സൂക്ഷിച്ചാൽ അളുകൊണ്ടും കുറച്ചു കാര്യം സാധിക്കാം.

I must speak something about co-operative movement and co-operative societies here. The movement has been steadily on the decline. The number of co-operative societies which was 1766 in 1114 has come down to 1480 in 1115 and even those societies that survive are not functioning properly. Many of them will have to be liquidated soon. In order to rehabilitate the movement and also to afford sufficient facilities to agriculturists, sufficient money will have to be advanced by Government. It should also be made impossible for individuals to get agricultural and industrial loans except through co-operative societies of which he is a member. In this connection, for the improvement of co-operative societies I may make a few tentative suggestions. First of all, (1) all bad debts should be written off. (2) Sufficient money should be advanced by the Government.....

Dr. K. L. Moudgill : Is it the member's suggestion that the money should be first advanced to write off the debt or the debt should be written off before the money is received ?

Mr. K. M. Kesavan : (3) A committee should be appointed to enquire into the ways in which these societies are working and on that report Government should take such steps as those I am pointing out.

Dr. Thomas Chandy Mukkadan : കിട്ടാക്കടം കളഞ്ഞിട്ടു പുതിയ കടം കൊടുക്കുന്നതുകൊണ്ട് പുതുതായി കൊടുക്കുന്ന കടംകൂടി കിട്ടാതാകയില്ലയോ?

Mr. K. M. Kesavan : സംഘത്തിന്റെ സ്ഥിതിഗതികളെക്കുറിച്ചു നല്ലവണ്ണം അന്വേഷിച്ചു, അതിനെ ഏതു നിലയിൽ ഉയർത്തുവാൻ കഴിയുമെന്നുള്ള വിവരം കണ്ടുപിടിച്ചശേഷം അങ്ങനെയുള്ള സംഗതികൾ പ്രവർത്തിക്കണം. ഒരിക്കലും പിരിഞ്ഞുകിട്ടാത്ത കടം തീർച്ചയായും എഴുതി കുറക്കണം. അതു വച്ചുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്നതുകൊണ്ടു യാതൊരു ഗുണവുമില്ല.

(4) No loan should be given to any one for non-productive purposes. (5) The number of credit societies should be reduced to the absolute minimum.

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President : The honourable members has two minutes more.

Mr. K. M. Kesavan : Next to agriculture I shall take up industry. It is only by industrialization that we shall be able to give sufficient employment to the growing population of the country. Whatever may be the care bestowed upon agriculture by Government, the scope of agriculture as such, is bound to be limited. It is only by following a policy of industrialization that any country can achieve a high degree of power, wealth and importance. The present war, cursed as it is, and attended with all its evils, has one good result, and that is, that it gives us an excellent opportunity to start new industries and to develop existing infant industries, without raising any tariff walls of protection.....(President bell.)

Mr. T. Krishna Pillai : I have great pleasure in congratulating the Government on their attempt to present an apparantly prosperity budget for the ensuing year. It is, indeed, a source of great gratification that the very first budget that the present Financial Secretary was able to present before us is a surplus one. The present Financial Secretary as well as his predecessor in office are so enamoured of a surplus budget and evidently under the hallucination that a surplus budget is the *summum bonum* of financial administration, have emphasised by reiteration in the budget speech as well as by foot-notes is the budget memorandum that our surplus is not 1·5 lakhs but really 10 lakhs.

President : Although under the rules, excepting for the voting on Demands, this House shall rise at half past four, I think, I shall be meeting the wishes of the House if we sit till five. (*The House assented to the proposal*). If that be so, then members will realise that there is not very much time and the honourable member must curtail his remarks.

Mr. T. Krishna Pillai : With this prefatory observation, and curtailing my remarks due to want of time, I will take this opportunity to press upon the attention of Government one fact which I am never tired of advocating.

Sir, on every available occasion and opportunity you have been expressing in unequivocal terms your zest and zeal for the industrialisation of this State. Your clarion calls to the people of the land to come out and co-operate themselves to stimulate industrial enterprises, have, it would appear fallen on deaf ears. Travancore is essentially an agricultural country. Majority of the people of the land are agriculturists, and no wonder, capitalists in the real sense of the term are woefully lacking in this State, and those precious few existing in that category are either too callous

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or nervous, or so completely bereft of any speculative instinct to brave any industrial or commercial venture. As you have mentioned, we belong to the middle class or the lower middle class, striving every nerve to keep the wolf off from the door. Economic depression, heavy indebtedness and the consequent Debt Relief Act, the explosion of indigenous banking concerns, and a lot of other kindred circumstances have completely driven out cheap credit from the land. And as the last straw, there is the devastating war. Now, Sir, in these adverse, excruciating circumstances, your enthusiastic and patriotic appeal to the people to muster together and coordinate themselves to industrialise the country and take to commercial ventures, cannot but be a cry in the wilderness. There is no gainsaying the fact that this is a time when the Government, the biggest capitalist in the State, alone could come to the rescue of the people for the larger interest of the State and its future. As you have often conceded there is undoubtedly no future for the State unless side by side with intense agriculture a continuous policy of wise industrialisation is inaugurated. With due deference to your pensive remarks that we are wanting in business instinct, coordinated interaction and the rest of it, I must submit, it is not so much the absence of these qualities, as the woeful lack of sufficient capital that has contributed to the inertia and indifference of the people to take to industrial and commercial pursuits. If we turn to the history of the industrial development of the industrially advanced countries of the west, it could be seen that the most important function of the Government there was to utilise all the resources of the country to help the people to increase their wealth in the industrial and commercial field. All the resources of Government, military, finance, diplomacy, etc. were placed at the disposal of the people for this purpose. And, what have we in Travancore? We have an Industrial Department the continuance of which in the manner in which it has been functioning from the time of its inauguration to the present day is a standing disgrace to the fair name of our administration. One credit that goes to the Director of Industries is the fact that the amount set apart for the granting of industrial loans has been made to systematically dwindle from the peak figure of Rupees one lakh and odd t the time he took charge of his office to Rs ten thousand this year. In spite of the help from the honourable members to my right and left I was not able to lay my finger on any higher figure allotted for the industrial loans. Sir, another concern which advances money for industrial purposes is the Credit Bank. The activity of that bank in the direction of granting loans for industrial purposes, I am sure, would also reveal a woeful tale. It is my humble

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opinion Sir, that unless cheap credit is restored or Government themselves subsidise sufficiently, such sweet words as industrial regeneration, commercial development and allied advancements cannot materialise in the near future. Now, the question may be asked, where are we to go in for funds ? We have reached the bedrock of taxation in the country and all available resources have already been tapped. Now, there is the cry for retrenchment which is the order of the day. The one common complaint made from this side of the House is that our administration is top-heavy, and so the pruning knife must be ruthlessly applied. I for one do not hold the view that the salary of our officers is very high, and I am not for any retrenchment of the pay of officers. My friend Mr. Mahomed Ismail advocated the retrenchment in the number of offices and I am one with him in thinking that good saving could be effected by a process of amalgamation and lopping off unnecessary branches. I am glad that Government have already made a move in this direction, but the pecuniary gain may not, after all, be so handsome as is ordinarily imagined. The financial stability of the State as is evident from various pronouncements and publications by Government is unquestionably as sound as ever before.

President: Why do you want to doubt that?

Mr. T. Krishna Pillai: No, Sir. I have absolutely no doubt. The 5 per cent. debenture loan raised matures for discharge on the first day of next year and it is proposed to repay the same. The disbursement of this loan, would, in my opinion, simply go to augment the idle capital in the State. True, there are no big capitalists in this State, but there is no denying the fact that there are huge hordes of "irresponsible wealth" in the hands of a fortunate few in this country. This capital is tremendously shy and the only method that suggests itself to me to make this wealth available to be utilised for the material prosperity of the country as a whole, is, for the Government to take courage in their hands and raise a loan.

Mr. R. Rama Varier: May I know what interest can be charged for the loans to be floated? We are now giving 5 per cent. for the loan raised in 1111.

Mr. T. Krishna Pillai: Knowing as I do the present economic condition aggravated by the devastating war, and alive to the lower interest of 3½ per cent. for the loan of 1111, and the existence of huge hordes of idle capital I am quite sanguine that for a reduced interest the Government could raise any loans. Sir, it must be the imperative duty of the Government at this critical juncture not to draw upon the reserves, not to convert the guilt-

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edged securities, but to boldly float loans. No Government launching upon a programme of well-planned industrialisation and raising loans for that purpose could become a bankrupt at any time. The policy of drawing upon the annual resources and spending the same properly like a good house-wife respecting the proper economics of domestic science is so anti-deluvian and archaic and I would, therefore, strongly urge Government to raise sufficient amount to provide adequate funds to pursue a bold and systematic policy of industrialisation.

Sir, it is indeed a matter for great jubilation and legitimate pride that H. M. I. S. "Travancore" has been launched. True to the.....

President: The honourable member has exceeded his time.

Mr. Kottur Kunjukrishna Pillai: Sir, I hope that the Financial Secretary, in presenting the budget figures, has given us the final picture of the budget subject of course, to the changes that may be made by the Legislature. I want to ask, Sir, whether we could hope that the departmental heads will not come forward so frequently with supplementary demands making it necessary to have periodical appendices to this budget discussion. At any rate, I have to congratulate the Financial Secretary especially with regard to certain information given in the budget memorandum which was very valuable in estimating our financial position. I refer particularly to the information given regarding the distribution of expenditure especially in regard to collection service and also in regard to the development departments. Till now, it was impossible for us to know what exact amount has been spent on these items of services. It is of great value to know the persentage of money we spent in realising the amount by way of income. In this connection, I would make a request to the Financial Secretary without being presumptuous—that hereafter in regard to the collection services instead of giving the average of all these departments together, he will be pleased to give the average expenditure for collection services for each department, say, with regard to the Land Revenue, Customs, Stamps, etc, separately. Then, we will be in a position to know the exact amount spent for collection and the relative ratio. That will give us a correct idea as to the justifiableness of the expenditure of a particular department. Then with regard to the practice of providing a conspectus of our financial position by giving the figures for at least ten years. That is the only way to make us understand effectively whether we are putting

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forward a step or not. These are the very commendable features of this year's budget. Sir, I am not congratulating the Financial Secretary for presenting to this House a surplus budget, which can be merely a hand-to-mouth budget. But he has presented a budget which I wish to characterise as a development budget. I know, Sir, that it is a very ambitious term. I say so not because sufficient provision has been made for the development departments, not merely because that there is sufficient money provided for distress relief, not because that it has met every need of a progressive administration, but because the financial statement discloses that this budget has laid the foundations of the future prosperity of the finances of the State. It has made the financial progress of the country safe and secure. That is why I say that this budget is a development budget.

Before I go further into the details of the budget, I wish to refer to the question of raising loans. Ever since I have been in the Houses of Legislature I have been talking much interest in this question of posterity loans. The first question to be considered before raising a loan is, what is the purpose of raising a loan? Secondly, what is the justification for saddling posterity with a burden? We are justified in saddling posterity with a burden only if it is beneficial to posterity, only if it brings profit, *i. e.*, if the loan is raised for remunerative works, or if it is for a permanent utility. Under these circumstances, we find that it is totally unnecessary at this juncture to go to the money market for a loan. A loan can be raised only for a definitely justifiable purpose which can be justified on principle.

Regarding the question of assets, I wish to say a word in respect of the Transport Department which has been somewhat free from discussion in this House. I find, Sir, that a great deal is expected by way of income from this department. It is possible perhaps, though not in the immediate future, to have a good income from this source. But I want to make it clear that we cannot have it both ways. As my honourable friend Mr. Narayana Aiyar suggested, if we want to buy vehicles at abnormal cost and at the same time to show 7½ per cent. profit in the face of certain loss that is now manifesting in many lines, I do not think that it would be justifiable on the part of this House to say that the department is not running at a profit. As a result of my experience gained by working in the Advisory Committee of the Transport Department, I notice another great defect with regard to the department. They are not able to take a comprehensive view of the traffic necessity and traffic possibility in the various parts of the State. I propose to discuss this matter in greater detail on another occasion and so I do not wish to elaborate on this matter any further. I have sent in

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a resolution to suggest that the Transport Department should be responsible for controlling the traffic of the whole State, not with regard to offences under the Motor Vehicles Act, but with regard to the issue of licences, allowing traffic of private buses in the routes, and with regard to the regulation of charges that may be levied on it, to take a comprehensive view of traffic needs, to see that licences are not issued indiscriminately to private lorries to protect the department from cut-throat competition. It is absolutely necessary that the department should be entrusted with the work of controlling traffic—both passenger and goods—in the State.

Sir, I have not much more time, yet I think it is absolutely necessary to say a word or two with regard to the important question that you have raised, regarding constitutional reform. My honourable friend, Mr. Thampi, who is usually very tactful, has committed, in my opinion, an act of indiscretion in saying that the Dewan-President has not expressed in favour of constitutional changes. Even if it be so from the point of view of a member of this House, I must say, it is a tactical blunder on his part to have said that the Dewan has not said anything about it. As a matter of fact...

President: Does the honourable member mean to say that he has committed or not committed a mistake?

Mr. Kottur Kunjukrishna Pillai: Yes, Sir. He has committed a mistake. It is a mistake from the point of view of the person who is demanding constitutional reform. So far as I have been able to read the speech—and I have read the speech carefully and thought over the matter, and I think, Sir, that the words mean what is intended to be conveyed, and for all those persons who do not indulge in wishful thinking—there is what is needed. What the Dewan has unambiguously said from the very beginning, was that, under the conditions in which Indian States are at present and in view of their relationship with the Paramount Power, it is not possible or practicable, nor is it advisable to have Responsible Government of the type that existed and worked very well in England during the times of Disraeli and Gladstone. That point has been conceded by every administrator, and I think, Sir, the latest speech of the Secretary of State for India, Mr. Amery, reproduced even the very expressions that you used in your speech. I was amazed to find that the very arguments have been reproduced *in extenso*. Constitutional experts like Professor Keith are now silent and in British India, politicians have compromised with that view or have been converted. It will be idle or futile for us to go on harping at that. What we want, at present, is effective responsivensess to

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public opinion on the part of Government (*Cheers*), and any machinery that can be found out or can be devised with your unrivalled experience will be accepted by all reasonable sections of the people. A change of method and a change of basis from the present is called for and I think it is necessary, for the peaceful and orderly progress of this country. I think, so much was said in your speech and nothing more is expected by any one who reads the speech carefully not importing his wishes into the speech.

One word more and I conclude. That is with regard to the question that has been raised re: foodstuffs and clothing. Sir, there is a good deal of difficulty experienced on account of the paucity of yarn. A notification published by Government fixes the price with regard to yarn. But except the Harvey Mills, all other mills are not able to supply yarn at the rate fixed by Government. Government must see to it that the Harveys supply all the yarn required by the people of this country or they should revise the rates. In the town of Quilon, I know, Sir, about 400 bales of yarn are required per month. If Government can secure sufficient yarn so that we will get 400 bales of yarn and distribute them equally among the merchants, then there will be no complaint. Now the position is that only the yarn produced by the Harvey Mills can be sold in accordance with the notification issued by the Government and if that notification stands, Government must see that sufficient yarn is brought into the country by the agent and that the agent distributes it to the other merchants also. I have been receiving complaints and I received one to-day on the phone, that the agent is not giving any yarn at all to the local merchants and whatever little yarn he sells by dribblets to the consumers is thoroughly inadequate. What we want is, that either Government must fix an adequate price with regard to the particular kind of yarn and even higher prices for yarn that is available from other factories or that they should see that sufficient quantities of yarn are brought, distributed, and supplied to the various merchants, so that our yarn needs may be met. Sir, the Onam season is approaching and this is a very important time for the weavers. I hope, Sir, that Government will do everything in their power to see that sufficient quantities of yarn are being made available to all the people.

Mr. A. Easwara Pillai: Sir, I congratulate the Financial Secretary for presenting a surplus budget with a memorandum for explaining the variations in the budget estimates. I also feel it my duty to congratulate Government for augmenting the revenue of the State without burdening poor tax payers. I am glad to note that the financial equilibrium of this State remains undisturbed in spite of the grave and menacing international situations. The income of the State is progressively rising and the expenditure is also

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increasing correspondingly. I have no hesitation to state that our financial condition is sound and prosperous. But from the point of view of the people, the budget is thoroughly disappointing. In their view Government have collected huge funds and distributed them for purposes which will not materially help them in solving their problems of life. If the Government have known the real condition of the people they would not have made such meagre and insufficient allotments for ameliorative purposes.

Sir, I wish to draw the attention of Government to the problem of unemployment in the State. It is very intensively felt in coastal taluks and commercial towns. There is no correct statistics to find out the extent of unemployment in the State. But we can reasonably presume that a large portion of our people are left without employment. Very many persons have left Travancore in search of employment ; several hundreds are swarming the country as beggars. The extent and enormity of this problem will be better understood if one takes the pain to travel in a bus or train, from one end of the country to the other end. At every halt, he will be bombarded by a host of starving men, women and children. Most of them are not professional beggars but made to beg on account of actual unemployment in the country. Sir, it is not a happy augury to a State like Travancore. Travancore is mainly an agricultural State and the main occupation of the bulk of the people is agriculture. We once boasted that the peasants constituted the backbone of the country. But now on account of the frequent failure of crops, fall in prices and infinitesmal fragmentation of holdings, agriculture has lost its economic importance. Several persons style themselves as agriculturists, but vast majority of them are nominal holders of land and many others are landless dependants. Only a handful of persons can depend upon this industry for a decent living. The condition of industries in the State is also the same. Travancore is not essentially an industrial State. There are only a few indigenous industries such as spinning, weaving, coir making etc., and they are completely ruined on account of the world war and persons engaged in these industries are also left without employment. In addition to unemployment, these persons are heavily burdened with debt also. At present there are no facilities for easy credit. The agencies which were once distributing credit for the rural population have now gone out of existence. The banks, chitties and co-operative societies have all collapsed. It will be no exageration when I say that a sort of barter system is going on in the rural parts. If a person wants to raise a loan of Rs. 5, a few cents of his land should be mortgaged. The value of 90 per cent, of the documents registered in our

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Sub-Registry offices will range from Rs. 5 to 100. This shows the complete destruction of rural credit in the State. It should be admitted that an extraordinary situation has arisen and it also requires extraordinary measures. The duty of a civilized Government is to protect its people from abject penury and starvation. I do not speak of their fundamental rights, but I do hold that the Government should at least help them in their endeavours to lead a healthy and decent life. Under the circumstances I ask the Government in all seriousness what they have done, to alleviate the distress of the people. The Dewan-President has announced that the Government is making an attempt to create a reserve fund for the amelioration of the people of the State. Sir, it is intended only for occasional extraordinary reliefs in future. It is not even sufficient to touch the fringe of the problem. If the Government really wish to do something for the suffering millions, it must be done immediately, in an extensive manner. Government may complain of paucity of funds. If the Government favourably incline to effect a retrenchment in the expenditure of the State, I am sure they can save a lot and utilise it for ameliorative purposes. If we scrutinise the items of expenditure, there may be unnecessary and avoidable items. For instance, about half the income of the State is expended on salaries of officers, superannuation and establishment charges. A reasonable reduction can be made in this direction. Sir, from the Government side it is often said that the salaries of the officers in Travancore are not anyway higher than the salaries of officers in other countries. I think that comparison is far-fetched. Government ought to have compared the average income of the officer with the average income of the ordinary citizen in the State. According to the reports of the various committees specially appointed for the purpose of enquiring into the economic condition of the people of Travancore, the average income of a Travancorean is fixed at Rs. 4-8-0. I ask in all seriousness whether there is any comparison between the average income of an officer and that of an ordinary citizen. I think that the comparison of the salaries of the officers here with those of officers in other parts does not in any way help to solve the problem in Travancore. The great disparity now existing between the salaries of officers and the income of other classes of professions, creates discontent. The ratio between the various professions in the State should be strictly maintained. Therefore, it is highly necessary to apply the axe in the case of salaries of Government officers also. As some of my friends have submitted, in this country we have got innumerable offices, some of them unnecessary and superfluous. Sir, the recent creations and abolitions of very high posts will bear testimony to my contention. The posts

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of Land Revenue Commissioner, Co-operative Registrar, Financial Secretary, Deputy Director of Public Instruction, Chief Inspector of Schools have all disappeared; yet the Government machinery is running smoothly and effectively. Still, there are very many posts which are superfluous. The posts of A. S. Ps, Divisional Inspectors of Schools, some of the Division Officers and Sub-Division Officers of the P. W. D., the Game Warden, the Stores Purchase Secretary etc., can be abolished without anyway impairing the efficiency of Government.

Mr. V. Sankara Menon (*Trivandrum and Nedumangad cum Chirayinkil*): Sir, I rise to make some observations on this very important occasion when the general discussion of the budget is going on. I do not propose now to deal with the activities of the several departments as I will have the opportunity when the voting on demands comes up. But I will just confine myself to one or two general problems that arise for consideration at the present moment.

First, I have to say a word or two about the international situation which arises out of the terrible war that is waging around us and now near us. I feel proud that Travancore and her Ruler are rendering the utmost help to aid Britain to combat aggression and bondage. Sir, His Highness, our beloved Ruler, has contributed over Rs. 6 lakhs for the first trawler to launch from the Indian shores. The Government are continuing the contribution of the State and have provided a few lakhs of rupees for the purpose in the next year's budget. The people of Travancore must follow the example of their Ruler and give their support, material and moral, and above all, religious, for the success of Britain. Sir, I am a believer in the efficacy of prayers. Sir, I request the honourable members of the House to arrange for systematic and periodical prayers in all the temples churches and mosques of the State. I may also request you, Sir, to find it possible during the ensuing Murajapom ceremony to arrange for special prayers by those learned Vaidic Brahmins who may be present on the occasion, for the success of Britain.

Sir, my only difficulty at present is whether the people are now in a position to give their support as much and as liberally as they wish. This leads me on to the second problem. That problem can be described in two words with very few letters, though volumes can be said or written on the same. Sir, I can speak for hours and hours on that particular subject nay, I can talk for the whole of this session; but that cannot be done.

President: The honourable member has only five minutes more.

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Mr. V. Sankara Menon : The two words are food and clothing. Sir, the people of Travancore, the majority of them, are now finding it difficult to keep their body and soul together and to cover their nakedness. I have heard that in certain places in the villages the people are wearing synthetic clothes, bits of gunny bags, mats and even plantain leaves. I do not say this for the purpose of creating any undue impression ; but that is a fact. With regard to food, I think it is high time for Government to see that synthetic food also is available as a substitute for rice which is the staple food, for the sustenance of the people.

In this connection, I would say that the fish industry must be encouraged. I am not a fish eater myself, but now I shall welcome and adore fish for the sake of the poor of Travancore. Sir, the real solution, I think, lies in the village. We must all go back to the village literally and in a wider sence. I would suggest that the heads of departments and that the district officers should periodically visit all the pakuthies and know direct the conditions that are prevailing there. I would also suggest that you, Sir, also go occasionally to the different pakuthies in the different taluks and know first-hand the real situation there.

Mr. E. K. Kuriyppe : സർ, ഈ ബഡ്ജറ്റ് ഗവണ്മെൻറിന്റെ ഉറച്ച ധനസ്ഥിതിയെ കാണിക്കുന്നു. നാലഞ്ചു വർഷങ്ങളായി ഉല്പന്നങ്ങളുടെ വിലക്കുറവുനിമിത്തവും, ചില രാഷ്ട്രീയപ്രവർത്തനങ്ങൾമൂലവും ഗവണ്മെൻറിന്റെ സാമ്പത്തികനിലയെ വല്ലാതെ ബാധിക്കുന്നതിനു് ഇടയായി എങ്കിലും രാജ്യത്തിന്റെ മുതലെടുപ്പു് വളരെ വർദ്ധിക്കത്തക്ക ഒരു സ്ഥിതിയിൽ എത്തിയിരിക്കുന്നു എന്നു് കാണിക്കുന്നു. ഈ ബഡ്ജറ്റ് കഴിഞ്ഞ 8 വർഷങ്ങളിൽ വിദ്യാഭ്യാസം, വ്യവസായം, ഗതാഗതസൗകര്യം മുതലായവയുടെ അഭിവൃദ്ധിക്കായി ഗവണ്മെൻറ് ചെയ്തിട്ടുള്ളതുപോലെ ഒരു പരിശ്രമം മറ്റു് ആരുടെ കാലത്തും ഉണ്ടായിട്ടില്ലെന്നുള്ളതു് പ്രത്യേകം പ്രസ്താവയോഗ്യമാണു്. രാജ്യത്തിന്റെ വരവു് വളരെ കുറഞ്ഞിരുന്നകാലത്തും ഓരോ പദ്ധതിക്കായി ഗവണ്മെൻറ് ലക്ഷക്കണക്കിനു് രൂപാ ചിലവാക്കുന്നതുകണ്ടു് ജനങ്ങൾ വളരെ പരിഭ്രമിച്ചു. മിക്ക രാജ്യങ്ങളും അവരുടെ വരവുകൊണ്ടു് സാധാരണ ചിലവുപോലും നടത്താൻ പ്രയാസപ്പെട്ടിരിക്കുന്ന ഈ കാലഘട്ടത്തിൽ.....

Mr. Kottur Kunjukrishna Pillai : On a point of order, whether at this time manuscripts can be made use of.

Mr. E. K. Kuriyppe : ഞാൻ വായിക്കണമെന്നു വിചാരിക്കുന്നില്ല.

President : Honourable member has got about three minutes more and then I will have to call another honourable member and then the Government members to speak. So, the honourable member can concentrate on what he has got to say.

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Mr. E. K. Kuriyppe : തിരുവിതാംകൂറിലെ വരവു് ഇൻഡ്യയിലെ നാട്ടരാജ്യങ്ങളിലെ മൂന്നാമത്തെ സ്ഥാനം അർഹിക്കത്തക്ക നിലയിൽ ആക്കിത്തീർത്തതു് ഇന്നത്തെ ഭരണാദ്ധ്യക്ഷനാണെന്നുള്ളതു സംശയംകൂടാതെ പറയാവുന്ന ഒരു കാര്യമാണു്. രണ്ടു മൂന്നു കാര്യങ്ങൾ ഞാൻ ഗവണ്മെൻറിന്റെ ദൃഷ്ടിയിൽപ്പെടുത്തണമെന്നു വിചാരിക്കുന്നു. കൊട്ടങ്കാറുമൂലവും വെള്ളപ്പൊക്കംമൂലവും വടക്കൻതിരുവിതാംകൂറിൽ ചില ഭാഗത്തു് വലിയ നാശങ്ങൾ ഉണ്ടായിട്ടുണ്ടു്. അവിടത്തെ ആവശ്യങ്ങൾക്കു ഗവണ്മെൻറു് ഒരു വലിയ സംഖ്യ അനുവദിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളതായും അറിയാം. വെള്ളപ്പൊക്കമുണ്ടായതു് കൊട്ടങ്കാറിന്റെ ശേഷമാണു്. പറവൂർ താലൂക്കിൽ പുത്തൻവേലിക്കര, പുത്തൻചിറ, വടക്കേക്കര മുതലായ പ്രദേശങ്ങളിലും അതിനടുത്തുള്ള സ്ഥലങ്ങളിലുമുള്ള ആളുകൾ വളരെ വിഷമിക്കുന്നു. വെള്ളപ്പൊക്കംമൂലം അവിടത്തെ കൃഷി മുഴുവൻ നശിച്ചു എന്നുമാത്രമല്ല, അടുത്തകൊല്ലം കൃഷിചെയ്യുന്നതിനു് വിത്തു പോലും വാങ്ങുന്നതിനു് അവർക്കു നിവൃത്തിയില്ല. അതിനാൽ ഗവണ്മെൻറു് കൃഷിക്കാർക്കു് ഓരോ ചെറിയ തുകയെങ്കിലും ഏതെങ്കിലും വ്യവസ്ഥകളിൽ കടമായി കൊടുക്കണം. എന്നുമാത്രമല്ല, അവരുടെ ഈ ഒരുകൊല്ലത്തെ കരവും ഇളവുചെയ്തുകൊടുക്കണമെന്നാണു് എനിക്കു ഗവണ്മെൻറിനെ അറിയിക്കാനുള്ളതു്. കൂടാതെ രാജ്യത്തിന്റെ പല ഭാഗത്തും കുഷ്ഠരോഗികളെ ധാരാളം കാണുന്നുണ്ടു്. അവർ ഇങ്ങനെ അലഞ്ഞുനടക്കാതിരിക്കാൻ ഗവണ്മെൻറു പ്രത്യേകം ശ്രദ്ധിക്കണം. ഇനി എനിക്കു പറയാനുള്ളതു് കമ്മ്യൂണൽ റിപ്രസന്റേഷനെ സംബന്ധിച്ചാണു്. എന്റെ സ്നേഹിതൻ മി. മഹമ്മദ് ഇസ്മയിൽ പ്രസ്താവിച്ചതുപോലെ ജനസംഖ്യയെമാത്രം അനുസരിച്ചുള്ള നിയമനങ്ങൾ ഞങ്ങൾക്കു വേണ്ട. യോഗ്യന്മാരായുള്ളവർ എല്ലാ സമുദായത്തിലുമുണ്ടു്. എഫിഷ്യൻസി ഒരു സമുദായത്തിന്റേയും കുത്തകയല്ല. എഫിഷ്യൻസി പ്രത്യേകമായി ഒരു സമുദായക്കാർക്കും ദൈവം സൃഷ്ടിച്ചുകൊടുത്തിട്ടുമില്ല. ചിലപ്പോൾ ചില പ്രത്യേക സ്ഥാനങ്ങളിലേയ്ക്കു് തക്ക പരിശീലനം സിദ്ധിച്ച വിദഗ്ധന്മാരെ വെളിയിൽനിന്നു വരുത്തേണ്ടതു് ആവശ്യംതന്നെ. അപ്രകാരം വെളിയിൽനിന്നും യോഗ്യന്മാരെ കൊണ്ടുവരുമ്പോൾ, ഇവിടെ യോഗ്യന്മാരുണ്ടായിരുന്നു, അവരെ നിയമിച്ചില്ല എന്നും മറ്റും ചിലർ സങ്കടം പറയുന്നു. എന്നാൽ അസമത്വസമുദായത്തിൽപ്പെട്ടവരെ നിയമിക്കാത്തതിനെപ്പറ്റി ഇവർ സങ്കടം പറയുന്നില്ല. ഇവിടെയുള്ളവരെ നിയമിക്കുമ്പോൾ തക്ക യോഗ്യതയുള്ളവർ ഞങ്ങളുടെ സമുദായത്തിലുണ്ടെങ്കിൽ അവരേയും നിയമിക്കണമെന്നാണു് ഞാൻ പറയുന്നതു്. അല്ലാതെ,

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ഞങ്ങൾക്ക് ആളോഹരിവേണം, അതനുസരിച്ചതന്നെ ഉദ്യോഗാ കിട്ടണം എന്ന് ഞങ്ങൾ പറയുന്നില്ല. കൂടുതൽ ഉദ്യോഗം കരസ്ഥമാക്കീട്ടുള്ള ഏതെങ്കിലും സമുദായക്കാരെ മാറ്റി ആ ഉദ്യോഗങ്ങൾ ഞങ്ങൾക്കു തരണമെന്നും പറയുന്നില്ല. ഇപ്പോഴത്തെ ഗവണ്മെൻറ് അസമതപ്തസമുദായങ്ങൾക്ക് അല്പസ്വല്പം ആനുകൂല്യങ്ങൾ ചെയ്യുന്നുണ്ടെന്ന് ഞാൻ സമ്മതിക്കുന്നു. പല സംഗതികൾക്കും പരിഹാരമുണ്ടാക്കിയ ഇപ്പോഴത്തെ ദിവാൻജി അവർകൾ ഈ പ്രശ്നത്തിനും ഒരു പരിഹാരമുണ്ടാക്കുമെന്നാണ് അസമതപ്തസമുദായങ്ങൾ വിശ്വസിക്കുന്നത്. അതുകൊണ്ട് ഞങ്ങൾ ഗവണ്മെൻറിനെ മാത്രമേ ആശ്രയിക്കുന്നുള്ളൂ. ഞങ്ങൾ ഞങ്ങളുടെ സ്നേഹിതന്മാരായുള്ള മറ്റു സമുദായക്കാരോട് പറയുന്നതു കാലാനുസരണമുള്ള അധികാരങ്ങളും അവകാശങ്ങളും ഞങ്ങൾക്കും കിട്ടണമെന്നാണ്. ഏതെല്ലാം കാര്യങ്ങളിൽ അസമതപ്തമുണ്ടോ അതെല്ലാം പരിഹരിക്കുന്നതിനു മറ്റു സമുദായക്കാർക്കുടി ശ്രമിക്കണമെന്നാണ് അസമതപ്തസമുദായാംഗങ്ങളുടെ അപേക്ഷ. സാമ്പത്തികമായോ, വിദ്യാഭ്യാസപരമായോ ഞങ്ങൾ മറൊരു സമുദായത്തിനേറയും പുറകിലല്ല. രാജഭക്തിയിലും ഞങ്ങൾ പിന്നണിയിൽ അല്ലെന്ന് ദിവാൻജി അവർകൾ തന്നെ പ്രസ്താവിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ട്. എന്നാൽ ചില നിയമനങ്ങളെ സംബന്ധിച്ചു പറയുമ്പോൾ ചില ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറുകളിൽ കമ്മ്യൂണൽ റിപ്രസൻറേഷൻ മാത്രം സ്വീകരിക്കാൻ നിവൃത്തിയില്ലാ എന്നു പറഞ്ഞിട്ടുണ്ട്. അങ്ങനെ ചെയ്യണമെന്ന് ഞങ്ങൾക്കു നിർബന്ധമില്ല. എന്നാൽ അങ്ങനെയുള്ള ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറുകളിൽ നിയമിക്കുന്നതിന് ഞങ്ങളുടെ സമുദായത്തിൽ യോഗ്യന്മാരുള്ളപ്പോൾ അപ്രകാരം ചെയ്യണമെന്നുമാത്രമേ അഭിപ്രായമുള്ളൂ.

Mr. N. Krishna Aiyar: Sir, I also wish to join in the chorus of tribute to the Financial Secretary for his lucid speech and the remarkably clear exposition of the budget and the very useful budget memorandum. It is really a matter for gratification that in spite of the most adverse conditions, political and international, having their repurcussions all over the world, we have been able to estimate a figure of over Rs. 280 lakhs and to anticipate a surplus of over a lakh, after having made suitable provision for a decent reserve for meeting emergencies. All this has been done without much additional burden of fresh taxation.

Sir, there is no doubt that two of the greatest problems facing us are food and employment. The most useful solution that has been so often pointed out is the expansion of agriculture and industry. Now that cheap electric power is available in abundance there is great scope for the starting of several industries and also

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[Mr. N. Krishna Aiyar.]

for the expansion of agriculture. It cannot be forgotten at the same time that electricity alone will not be sufficient for the stimulation and expansion of industry and agriculture. Finance also is very necessary. On account of the Debt Relief Legislation and the tendencies which led to it and are flowing from it, it cannot but be admitted that whatever little capital is available in the State is shy, is getting frozen and possibly stuck up in the Anchal Savings Banks, which only adds to the un-economic burden of the State. The only credit institution worth mentioning and which can be said to serve any useful function is the Credit Bank. My honourable friend Mr. T. Krishna Pillai pointed out that even that institution is not achieving all the usefulness which it is capable of achieving. It is true that that institution has not been making itself as useful as anticipated to the small industrialists or agriculturists mainly because it has to be conducted under the provisions of Statutory Rules. Monies could not be advanced on short term loans or on stocks of merchandise. One of the methods of solving the problem is either to start new industrial and agricultural banks with the aid of or under the control of Government or to expand the scope of the Credit Bank in order to advance to small agricultural and industrial loans also. The difficulties the small agriculturists are feeling in order to carry on their agricultural operations are incalculable and indescribable. The proposed starting of plywood and cement manufactures in the State is a very welcome feature.

The availability of electric power from Pallivasal for pumping water for cultivation in Kuttanad is also gratifying. But I may mention one or two points in this connection. Compared to the charges offered to the Cochin State and to the K. D. H. P. Company and the Aluminium Company the rates offered to our agriculturists are excessive. Last year the agriculturists of Kuttanad felt the burden so much that the charges are now in arrears in some cases.

President: I suggest to the honourable member to advert to that question when the demand is under consideration.

Mr. N. Krishna Aiyar: I wish only to invite the sympathetic attention of Government to this matter.

Then I have one word to say about the imposition of the new cess on rubber and increase of duty on tea. I agree and join with Mr. Park in requesting Government that this measure should be only temporary and that as soon as conditions improve the cess may be lifted.

Mr. Kalloor Narayana Pillai : സർ, ഞാൻ ഈയാണ്ടത്തെ ബഡ്ജറ്റ് അവതരിപ്പിച്ചതിൽ ഫൈനാൻഷ്യൽസെക്രട്ടറിയെ അനുമോദിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു. ഈ അവസരത്തിൽ ഏതാനും ചില നിർദ്ദേ

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ശങ്കരൻകുട്ടി ഗവണ്മെൻറിന്റെ പഞ്ചാലോചനയ്ക്കു വിഷയമാക്കുവാൻ ഞാൻ ആഗ്രഹിക്കുന്നു. ഇവിടത്തെ മുതലെടുപ്പിൽ ഒട്ടും അപ്രധാനമല്ലാത്ത ഒരു ഇനമാണ് ചുങ്കം. ആ ഇനത്തിൽ തെങ്ങിൽനിന്നുള്ള സാധനങ്ങൾ കയറുമതിചെയ്യുകിട്ടുന്ന തുക കയറുമതിത്തീരുവയുടെ നൂറു ശതമാനമുണ്ടെന്നു ഗവണ്മെൻറ് റിപ്പോർട്ടുകൾതന്നെ വെളിപ്പെടുത്തുന്നുണ്ട്. ഇപ്പോൾ ഒരു കണ്ടു കയറിനു ആവശ്യമുള്ള ൨൫൦൦ തൊണ്ടിനു ഒന്നര രൂപയാണു തീരുവ വച്ചിരിക്കുന്നതു്. എന്നാൽ അതു കയറാക്കുന്നപക്ഷം ഒരു കണ്ടിക്കു് നാലു രൂപ തീരുവ വച്ചിരിക്കുന്നു. ഒരു കണ്ടി ചകരി ഉണ്ടാക്കുന്നതിനു് ൨൫൦൦ തൊണ്ടുകൾ വേണം. തൊണ്ടുകൾക്കു തീരുവ ക്രട്ടുന്നപക്ഷം വിദേശികളായ കച്ചവടക്കാരുടെ ആക്രമണത്തിൽനിന്നും ഇവിടത്തെ തൊണ്ടുവ്യവസായികൾ രക്ഷപ്പെട്ടുന്നതാണു്. തൊണ്ടുവ്യവസായത്തിൽ ഓരോ ഘട്ടവും ഓരോ പ്രത്യേക വ്യവസായമാണു.

ഈ രാജ്യത്തെ സ്ഥായിയും സ്ഥിരവുമായ ഒരു മുതലെടുപ്പുണ്ടാകുന്നതു ഭ്രനികൃതിയിൽനിന്നാണല്ലൊ. ൫൨ ലക്ഷം രൂപയാണു് ആ ഇനത്തിൽ ഗവണ്മെൻറിനു ലഭിക്കുന്നതു്. ഭ്രനികൃതിയെ വർദ്ധിപ്പിക്കാൻ ഇനി നിവൃത്തിയില്ലാതിരിക്കുന്നു എന്നും ക്രട്ടുതൽ നികുതി ചുമത്തണമെന്നാഗ്രഹിക്കുന്നില്ല എന്നും ഗവണ്മെൻറുഭാഗത്തുനിന്നും പറയുകയുണ്ടായി. ഭ്രനികൃതി വർദ്ധിപ്പിക്കാനുള്ള ഒരു മാർഗ്ഗം ഞാൻ നിർദ്ദേശിക്കണമെന്നു വിചാരിക്കുന്നു. ജന്മിമാരുടെ ജന്മവസ്തുക്കൾക്കും ബ്രഹ്മസ്വംവസ്തുക്കൾക്കും ഭ്രനികൃതി ചുമത്താറില്ല. ആ വക വസ്തുക്കൾ അന്യാധീനപ്പെടുകയോടുകൂടി പാവപ്പെട്ട കുടിയാന്മാർ എഴുതിവാങ്ങുന്നപക്ഷം കരം ചുമത്തുന്നു...

(Presidents' bell)

Dr. K. L. Moudgill: Sir, I propose to deal briefly with the criticisms that have been made in regard to the fishery section of the department of Marine Biology in the University. I shall first of all refer to the criticism of my friend Mr. Tampi, who is a member of the Senate and has very ample opportunities of acquainting himself with the qualifications of the person who is the head of the department. Since, apparently, Mr. Tampi thinks that the present person is hailing from Agra I may inform him that he belongs to Travancore and that he has had previous training in fisheries. He had singular opportunities of learning the conditions of the fisheries in Travancore and making an intensive study of the subject before the transfer of the Fisheries Section from the department of agriculture to his control. Apart from all that, most of the officers and the subordinates of the Fisheries Department are still in the department. So far as the personnel is concerned, Mr. Tampi or anybody else can have little cause for complaint.

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[Mr. K. L. Moudgill.]

Coming to the next point, raised by Mr. Mukkadan, I may inform the House that the grievances of fishermen have been looked into. It may perhaps be necessary to explain at some length as to what actually is being done. The waters can be broadly described in two categories, both under the control of the department, those which are directly under the supervision of the department and are open to licensees and other inland waters, which are leased out to contractors for certain periods extending up to three years. These contractors are authorised to issue licences to fishermen and those persons who are taking out licenses are allowed to fish in these inland waters. Let there be no impression that these contractors are big barons of the fishing industry. There are some petty contractors who are making their living by the lease they organise. There is an impression in this House that these contractors have got the extraordinary power of coercing the fishermen. They have no such power. Even the Fisheries Department which has control over the waters is not empowered to compel the fisherman to take licenses. If a fisherman is not actually caught catching fish, the fish cannot be confiscated and no action can be taken against him. The contractors can only stop others poaching in the area leased to them; further action, if any, can be taken only by the officers of the department.

Now Sir, there is another side of the picture. We find that the lessees are very shy in coming forward. If it were so well known that they could get much income on account of the industry, it is difficult to see why they don't come forward in some of the auctions. Is it not that when the vested interest of an individual is affected, he begins to complain because some one else is trying to get a share into his cornered interests. In this particular business, when nobody else is interested and there are no competing parties, the question of corners does not come in and there are no complaints.

I shall bear in mind the remarks of the honourable members and consider the matter. Also, I should not be understood to say that the Fisheries Department is in a perfect condition. I do admit that in certain branches of that department some radical reform is necessary. The matter has been gone into and the proposals evolved in that connection are under careful consideration. Far from warding off the criticism of the members of the House, it is likely that Government and the University will have to draw upon the assistance of the House in giving effect to proposals calculated to place fishing in the State on a much bigger footing than the present.

Mr. R. Rama Variar: Sir, I am very thankful to the honourable members for the kind words with which they have received the budget. I have only one or two observations to make.

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Some of the points raised on the floor of the House would settle themselves when I invite the attention of the honourable members to the relevant specific provisions in the budget estimates. It was pointed out by one honourable member that there was no provision for the grant of Industrial Loans. A reference to page 265 of the budget estimates would easily clear the point.

Mr. T. Krishna Pillai: All that I said was that I was not able to find out the exact amount for that purpose.

Mr. R. Rama Variar: Ten thousand rupees.

It was also mentioned that no provision has been made for the development of cottage industries. I have only to invite the attention of the House to the provision made on page 162 of the budget under the items 'Grants to Industrial Institutions,

President: Government are prepared to extend help to needy persons. It is a fairly well-known fact that if the industries are properly run, there is no difficulty for Government to help them with contributions. In fact I have not come across any single application for industrial loan.

Mr. R. Rama Variar: Further on page 265 of the budget, separate provisions are made for agricultural loans, loans for purchase of implements, industrial loans to Co-operative Societies and other kindred items.

In the course of the discussion it was pointed out by some honourable member that my budget anticipations verge on the side of optimism and the position was sought to be substantiated on the alleged ground that I had not taken account of the existence of cocoanut pest trouble in Central Travancore and of the present paralysed condition of commerce. That the present state of international trade has been taken due account of, in fixing the budget estimates, is clear from my speech introducing the budget to the Joint Sitting of the Legislative Houses. Nor were the conditions of the cocoanut industry in the State, not only in Central Travancore, but also in North and South Travancore as well, lost sight of in arriving at the budgetary anticipations. So, I honestly think that I have not been too optimistic, and I hope that our anticipations will materialise in the course of the next year if nothing abnormal happens during the period, that could be foreseen with ordinary prudence.

Mr. Park pointed out that the price of tea has not gone up. I may inform the member that my reference in the budget speech was only to the unabated price of tea and not to any increase in its price. But the export of tea has steadily been on the increase from 1109 and it would be readily conceded that more export means

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[Mr. R. Rama Variar.]

more sales and consequently more profits. This circumstance and not any change in the price of tea, as seems to have been made out by Mr. Park, explains the raising of the duty on tea nominally from Re. 1-8-0 to Rs. 2. I may assure Mr. Park that Government had considered all the aspects of the question before arriving at their decision in the matter. Another doubt raised was as to whether the cess on rubber would go to the individuals also, who contributed to it. I may tell him that the cess is only for the Government.

The honourable member Mr. Kitten seems to be under the impression that the lump sum provision of Rs. 2 lakhs in the Army Budget is for the reorganisation of the Army. He would, I am sure, allow me to correct him by pointing out that that provision is for meeting emergencies arising out of the war situation and not for the purpose indicated by him.

I now wish to speak a word about the Distress Relief Fund. On a reference to page 5 of the budget speech it will be seen that there is some provision for relief of distress during the current year. The provision fixed at Rs 7 lakhs for the ensuing year is both for war and for distress relief to be utilised as occasion demands. The Dewan-President has, as the honourable members are aware, already explained these items in his opening speech on the budget.

Mr. K. K. Kuruvilla: The following passage occurs on page 5 of the budget speech :—"Relief works were started in Alleppey and the neighbouring places to combat unemployment and about half of the amount at the credit of the Distress Relief Fund was utilised in this direction." May I know whether there was not some balance remaining unspent? Why is it that no provision has been set apart now?

Mr. R. Rama Variar: As the work was over there was no necessity to spend the balance left.

Mr. K. K. Kuruvilla: Am I to take it from the honourable member that a greater portion of the money was spent towards relief work?

Mr. R. Rama Variar: Yes, Sir. From a reference to pages 258 and 259 of the budget it will be seen that there is a sum of Rs. 3 lakhs remaining which after meeting all further expenditure of this year will be available for the next year. The balance amount available after spending from the total allotment will be spent if and when necessary during the next year for purposes of ameliorative works.

Mr. T. Krishna Pillai: Is the amount to be utilised for distress work in Travancore?

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Mr. R. Rama Variar: I have budgeted for Travancore and for Travancore only.

As regards the necessity for raising a new loan I do not think I need say anything more than what has been said on the matter by the honourable member Mr. Kottur Kunjukrishna Pillai. In regard to the additional information required by the honourable member all that I could say now is that I shall give the matter serious consideration and try to furnish all possible additional data in the next year's memorandum.

Rajyasevapravina M. K. Nilakanta Aiyar: Sir, I shall first proceed to deal with the subjects in respect of which adjournment motions were sought to be brought forward. The first deals with the supply of yarn. A full statement was made by the Dewan-President elsewhere on this matter and the full text of the speech has appeared in the Press. I have nothing more to add except to state that Government are fully alive to the importance of the matter and they are doing all that is possible. Mr. Doak of Messrs. Harveys, Madura Mills, was here some time back and there was a full discussion. It was then disclosed that orders had been booked up to May 1942. Nevertheless, he has promised to do his best in the matter.

Certain weavers and their representatives came to me in a body and stated that some agents and merchants were stocking yarn with a view to profiteering. They were asked to report to Government particulars about the individuals guilty of that offence, so that action could be taken against them under the Defence of Travancore Rules. Unfortunately, there has been no response till now in this matter. Instructions have however been issued to all the District Magistrates to prevent the cornering of stocks and profiteering. Even this morning, the District Magistrate of Quilon phoned to me that the stocks in Quilon were taken possession of and distributed among the people.

The real difficulty is in regard to the getting of sufficient stock of yarn. I have already stated that negotiations are going on with Mr. Doak of Messrs. Harveys for the supply of the yarn required for the State. It is true that the price of yarn of Messrs. Harveys is less than the price quoted by certain other manufactures. But the practical difficulty is this. Messrs. Harveys are not able to supply our requirements. Again the price of a bundle of yarn of Messrs. Harveys is, let us take it, Rs. 6-2-0 and other companies charge a price of say Rs. 8-2-0 per bundle. When the rates vary, the difficulty is to fix the price. Government are however endeavouring to do what is possible and if it will be possible to differentiate one kind of yarn from another so that different rates could be fixed for different kinds of yarn, there will be no difficulty. The matter of fixing prices for the different kinds of yarn will be considered.

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Mr. Kottur Kunjukrishna Pillai: Is it not a fact that different factories produce different kinds of yarn and thereby some difficulty is experienced in the matter of fixing up the price?

Rajyasevapravina M. K. Nilakanta Aiyar: That is exactly my point. Messrs. Harvey's yarn, as I said, is Rs. 6-2-0 per bundle and if we enhance the price of yarn the price will be Rs. 6/6. Other manufactures may not be willing to sell their yarn at this price. There lies the difficulty.

Mr. M. Govindan: May I know how is the difficulty over come?

Rajyasevapravina M. K. Nilakanta Aiyar: At present we get yarn only from Messrs. Harveys.

President: Unfortunately, Messrs. Harveys are the suppliers for the Government of India also. Today, India is supplying yarn not only to India, but also to East Africa, Australia, Malaya, and portions of China. Indian textiles and Indian yarn are being sent to other places by Messrs. Harveys so much so, they are not in a position to supply us more and other companies are taking advantage of this position of Messrs. Harveys.

Rajyasevapravina M. K. Nilakanta Aiyar: The honourable member Mr. Ananthasiva Aiyar was referring to the difficulty experienced in the matter of procuring crude oil. The question of supplying petrol, crude oil and other oils for the requirements of the State is being considered and a date has been fixed for discussion of the matter with an officer of the Government of India, Commerce Department, who is arriving here soon.

Mr. Thomas Chandy Mukkadan was referring to the interference of the Fisheries Department in the matter of fishing in private waters. Dr. Moudgill has answered that point. But I believe there is one point to be clarified. This is the first time that a complaint of the kind has been made. If I have understood the member correctly, Mr. Chandy Mukkadan's complaint is that the contractors engaged by the Fisheries Department enter into private waters and interfere with the collection of fish in these waters. The contract is for fishing on porambokes. If the contractors violate the law, it is open to the parties to take the necessary action. They can go to the Police or to the Magistrate.

Mr. Thomas Chandy Mukkadan: കൺട്രാക്ടറന്മാർ അപ്രകാരം ഉപദ്രവിക്കുന്നു എന്നു മാത്രമല്ല ഓരോ പുഞ്ചപ്പാടങ്ങളിലും കയറിച്ചെന്നു അവിടെയുള്ള ഉപകരണങ്ങളെല്ലാടി എടുത്തുകൊണ്ടുപോകുന്നു.

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Rajyasevapravina M. K. Nilakanta Aiyar: മെമ്പറുടെ വീട്ടിൽ ഒരു കള്ളൻ കയറുകയാണെങ്കിൽ വിവരം പോലീസുകാരുടെ അടുക്കൽ അറിയിക്കണം. അവർ ക്രിമിനൽ നടപടി നിയമമനുസരിച്ചു വേണ്ട അന്വേഷണം നടത്തുമെന്നല്ലാതെ ഗവണ്മെൻറു ഇക്കാര്യത്തിൽ എന്താണു് ചെയ്യേണ്ടതു?

Mr. Thomas Chandy Mukkadan : ഒരു വ്യക്തിയേ സംബന്ധിച്ചു കാര്യമല്ല ഞാൻ ഇവിടെ പറഞ്ഞതു്. അൻപതിനായിരത്തിലധികം വരുന്ന ആളുകളെ ബാധിക്കുന്ന സംഗതിയെക്കുറിച്ചാണു് പറഞ്ഞതു്. ഇക്കാര്യത്തിൽ ഫിഷറി ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറുകാർ തന്നെ കൺട്രാക്ടറന്മാരെ സഹായിക്കുകയാണു് ചെയ്യുന്നതു്.

President : Is the Chief Secretary in a position to say whether the officers of the Fisheries Department take any part or connive in any of these highhanded actions ?

Rajyasevapravina M. K. Nilakanta Aiyar: The allegation is not against the department, but it is against the contractors.

President : No. No. The allegation is against the department. Is that not so Mr. Chandy Mukkadan ?

Mr Thomas Chandy Mukkadan : കുറെ കാലങ്ങൾക്കു മുൻപു പ്രത്യേകം ഒരു ഫിഷറി ഇൻസ്പെക്ടരെ ഇവരുടെ സഹായത്തിനായി അയക്കുകയും അദ്ദേഹം കൺട്രാക്ടറന്മാരുടെകൂടെ സഞ്ചരിച്ചു് ഉപകരണങ്ങൾ മുതലായവ എടുക്കുകയും അതു സംബന്ധമായി കേസ്സു് എടുക്കുകയും ചെയ്തിട്ടുണ്ടു്. ഇപ്പോഴാണെങ്കിൽ കൺട്രാക്ടറന്മാർ സബ് കൺട്രാക്റു കൊടുക്കുകയും ഈ സബ് കൺട്രാക്ടറന്മാർ പുഞ്ചപ്പാടങ്ങളിൽ മൽസ്യം പിടിക്കുന്ന ആളുകളുടെ അടുക്കൽ ചെന്നു് അവരുടെ സാമാനങ്ങളും മറ്റും എടുത്തുകൊണ്ടു പോവുകയും ചെയ്യുന്നു.

Rajyasevapravina M. K. Nilakanta Aiyar: If any officer of Government has been making mischief in the manner alleged by the honourable member and if full particulars are furnished, Government will of course take action.

Mr. Kochickal P. Balakrishnan Tampi : May I point out that it will be very hard to expose those poor people who make their living by their daily earnings by the provisions of the law?

Rajyasevapravina M. K. Nilakanta Aiyar: I am not interfering with the profession of my learned friend. When the question is brought to the notice of the house, as a member, it is my duty to point out what should be done.

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Mr. T. Krishna Pillai: May I know whether the Government will accord sanction to prosecute the Professor of Marine Biology as an abettor?

Rajyasevapravina M. K. Nilakanta Aiyar: That is a hypothetical question. The whole question will depend upon the facts and figures furnished to the Government.

Mr. T. K. Kitten referred to the non-availability of news print. Government can do very little in the matter.

Curiously enough the only two members who spoke against the imposition of cess on rubber and duty on tea are Messrs. Park and Krishna Aiyar and they are the only people, I believe.....

President: I think they were more anxious about further imposition of duty. Am I right?

Mr. T. W. U. Park: Yes, Sir.

Rajyasevapravina M. K. Nilakanta Aiyar: Duty on tea was for the first time imposed in 1916 and the rate fixed was Re. 1 As. 8 per 100 lbs. The same rate of duty continued till a few days ago, although the price of tea considerably increased in the meanwhile. In spite of the present increase, the percentage of duty on tea is the lowest, being only about 2½ per cent. as compared with cardamom or pepper in respect of which the duties amount to 5 per cent and 12½ per cent respectively. Another circumstance justifying imposition of cess on tea is the very low rate of tax imposed on most of the tea estates as compared with the tax on other lands. If I remember correctly the rate of tax imposed on most of the estates is only 6 to 8 annas per acre.

Mr. Kottur Kunjukrishna Pillai: May I know whether the honourable member will assure us that there is no prospect of reduction of this rate in the near future?

Rajyasevapravina M. K. Nilakanta Aiyar: The question relates to the future policy of the Government. I cannot give a reply.

President: The House will now adjourn and meet again at 11'o clock on Monday.

The House adjourned at 5-5 p. m.

V. S. ARUMUKHOM PILLAI,
Secretary to the Sri Chitra State Council.

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